Play party, fetish fashion show
on tap for Society of Janus' 25-year anniversary celebration this weekend.
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Kay Ostberg ready to go!
LGBT lobby group hires its first executive director.
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Slick and skillful
Rose Troche's new film 'Bedrooms and Hallways.'
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 29 • No. 38 • 23 September 1999

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 28 years

We're Leatheriffic!

Leather Pride Week gets big start

by Mister Marcus

To the tune of almost $15,000 raised from the Leather Pride Walk and the Bare Chest Calendar dinner-date auction immediately following, San Francisco's 1999 Leather Pride Week made an auspicious kickoff on Sunday, September 19.

The week culminates with the 16th annual Folsom Street Fair this Sunday, September 26. The multi-block party takes place on Folsom Street, between 7th and 12th streets.

Hundreds of people plunked down cash, wrote checks, and pushed their plastic out there to generate some $7,000 for charitable causes in the course of the Leather Pride Walk, as well as some $8,000 during the Bare Chest Calendar auction. The beneficiaries for both events were the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Positive Resource Center.

Exactly who raised what amounts for the Walk, I'm not yet sure, but I did learn

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Mister Marcus



Marc Geller

Vice President Al Gore, left, with Pat Martel, right, as Governor Gray Davis looks on.

Bradley, Gore come out against Knight

by Terry Beswick

Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley came out last Thursday September 16 against the Knight initiative, a statewide proposition on the March 2000 presidential primary ballot which would in effect ban future recognition of gay marriage in California. Within hours, Al Gore's campaign indicated – through a spokesperson – that the vice president is also opposed to the measure.

Both candidates also restated their opposition to gay marriage.

On a campaign swing through California with Governor Gray Davis, Gore appeared last Friday, September 17, at an invitation-only City Hall event, hosted by Mayor Willie Brown, to announce the October 20 groundbreaking of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Community Center to be built at 1800 Market Street. Gore presented Pat Martel, president of the center's board of directors, with a certificate designating the Fallon Building site as an official project of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "Save America's Treasures" program. Gore said the center will be "a place where pride is given a home on a daily basis." Martel told the *Bay Area Reporter* the designation is the first step in making the center eligible for funding from the federal program, a "pet project" of Hillary Clinton's.

Tom Ammiano, president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, who did not attend the event, had praise for the endorsements, but was bothered by the opposition to gay marriage itself. "I think this is really progress. I didn't think many of us would live to see this kind of thing," Ammiano told the *B.A.R.* "Still, there are double messages being put out here. It's bittersweet to know that we have to be in second place."

Questions from the press were not permitted at the City Hall event, clearly staged for the television cameras and the national press corps traveling on Air Force Two. Neither Gore nor Davis specifically mentioned the Knight initiative in their comments to the largely gay invitees.

Davis spokesman Michael Bustamante later said that "he's not going to take a position on every initiative, though it's very likely that he will on this one." San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno, who helped put the event together, said the governor told him that he would be taking no positions on any initiatives until January. Several observers noted that the governor failed to use the word "gay" at the event, except when referring to the center itself. "Everyone needs a place to be," Davis said of the new center.

Meanwhile, as the *B.A.R.* goes to press, Gore has not issued a statement or personally made a public comment on the anti-marriage measure. "We haven't seen any evidence that Gore himself has spoken up and issued any quotes on this," said David Elliot, communications director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) in Washington, D.C. NGLTF's Policy Institute recently published "Courting the Vote," a report on all the presidential candidates' known positions on LGBT issues. The report notes that all candidates of both parties oppose gay marriage, with the possible exception of Republican Elizabeth Dole, whose position is not known.

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Mora trial stirs drama

by Katie Szymanski

Forgetting entirely the events that transpired in March of last year, the San Francisco Superior Court trial of Edgard Mora focused last week on the absurd and irrelevant, with the prosecution trying to restore the credibility of its main witness, and the defense hammering home the image of a drunken, pathetic Mora who wouldn't consciously hurt a fly.

Mora, 26, is charged with murder and a hate crime enhancement for allegedly punching Brian Wilmes, 45, in front of the Loading Dock bar on March 12, 1998. Wilmes lost his balance from the force of the punch, hit his head, and died two days later. The prosecution's main witness Timothy Carroll has testified that Mora said "faggot" several times during and after the assault.

The trial started September 7 before Judge Raymond Williamson.

Defense attorney Robert Dunlap called to the stand an attorney who said Carroll, when arrested for using counterfeit money in 1995, gave conflicting accounts of where he received the phony $20 bill. The attorney, Linda Black, also stated that Carroll did not show up for his court appearance, and suggested that his ensuing bench warrant was suspiciously dismissed years later so that he could testify in the Mora trial. Black came complete with her newborn baby that occasionally cooed into the microphone, much to the delight of the smiling jurors. Dunlap rounded out the happy display with an abundance of overt same-sex affection, continuously patting the backs and rubbing the shoulders of his fellow male attorneys and witnesses.

Dunlap then called to the stand Esther Mora, Edgard's mother, who gave a teary-eyed rendition of what happened after her son allegedly assaulted Wilmes and came home.

Edgard, she said, arrived home crying. He took a framed photograph of his children off the wall and embraced it. He then accidentally dropped it, stepped on it, and broke it, which frustrated him enough to bang his head against the wall. When he did so, more framed photographs fell, and an angry Edgard tried to exit his mother's bedroom through the closet. When the closet proved an unlikely exit, he punched the door. His mother quickly threw lime juice in

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Happy birthday, Esta Noche



Rick Gerharter

A happy patron shows his appreciation to Mitzi Lee during last weekend's celebration of the 20th anniversary of Esta Noche. Several nights of partying included food, awards, dancing, drink, and of course, spectacular shows of beautiful Latin performers. The Mission District bar has long been a favorite of the Latin community.

One hurt in shooting outside SF sex club

by Ed Walsh

San Francisco police are looking for a suspect who opened fire outside the Power Exchange sex club early Sunday morning, September 19, wounding a man who had just left the club. The 50-year-old victim was rushed to San Francisco General Hospital where he was treated for a gunshot wound to his thigh and released later that morning.

Jeffrey Garner, who witnessed the shooting, told the *Bay Area Reporter* the incident began as an altercation in front of the club, located at 74 Otis Street, involving a group of seven young people. Garner said a woman in the group was yelling at a man for hitting her sister the previous day. After another man who sided with the woman knocked that man to the ground and started kicking him, a bouncer from the Power Exchange intervened and broke up the fight.

The man who had been kicked then left the group and got in the passenger side of a car across from the club and continued to exchange words with the group. Garner said the man left in the car, which was being driven by another person.

Garner said the car circled the block before the man returned, opening fire towards the group. At least six shots were fired. No one in the group was hurt but a 50-year-old man who appeared to have just exited the club was struck in the crossfire.

"He was firing right as he drove by us," said Garner, who was standing outside with others from the club who had stepped outside to smoke. "At first I thought, the SOB has a cap gun until I heard the hiss from the radiator of the car he hit."

Garner said it was very lucky that just one person was shot because several people were in front of the club when the shooting happened at about 4:15 a.m.

Garner said the incident happened during the Power Exchange's monthly fetish ball. Garner said the group of young people who were involved in the altercation had just left the club. Garner said the group was well dressed and "definitely not fetish people." Garner believes the group just came to gawk. "About 10 percent of the crowd was straight and into SM, another 30 percent gay males, and about 60 percent gawkers," said Garner. ▼

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PRC's 'Caribbean Nights' gala next Thursday

by Terry Beswick

The Positive Resource Center (PRC) will hold its annual gala and silent auction, "Caribbean Nights," on Thursday, September 30, at 6:30 p.m. at the Herbst Theatre Green Room, 401 Van Ness Avenue. Organizers say the gala will feature Caribbean entertainment, great food from San Francisco's finest restaurants, a silent auction, and an awards presentation.

Awards for outstanding support of the PRC programs and people living with HIV/AIDS will be presented to American Airlines, SMMILE, and the Sunrise Foundation.

Providing services since 1988, PRC's benefits counseling program helps people understand and obtain public and private benefits, while the employment program provides a comprehensive approach for people with HIV/AIDS seeking to enter or reenter the workplace.

Currently serving over 2,500 people each year, PRC reports that monies raised at the gala will be used to serve the increasing number of clients in need of its confidential and free services. Up to 10 percent of PRC's annual budget is expected to be raised at the event. Tickets to the Gala are $100. For tickets or more information, call PRC at (415) 777-0333. ▼

More trouble at and near the Endup

by Ed Walsh

Despite more problems last weekend, San Francisco police officials say their ongoing undercover narcotics surveillance of the Endup is over. On Sunday, September 19, police say one person overdosed on the drug gamma hydroxy butyrate acid (GHB) and another three people were arrested for drug dealing outside the popular club at Sixth and Harrison streets.

The trouble began at 5:30 a.m., when police say one person had to be rushed from the Endup to San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) after overdosing on GHB. The overdose incident was followed an hour and a half later by the arrests of three men on suspicion of drug dealing.

San Francisco Police Lieutenant Kitt Crenshaw told the *Bay Area Reporter* that a 21-year-old San Francisco man was arrested inside the Endup after he allegedly made a deal to sell an undercover narcotics officer the drug ecstasy. Crenshaw said two other men, a 25-year-old Hercules resident and 22-year-old Daly City resident, were arrested outside the Endup for possession for sale of ecstasy and methamphetamines.

"We found $14,000 in cash on the two suspects outside the Endup," said Crenshaw. "They easily had another $2,000 worth of drugs on them."

Crenshaw said his office was checking on whether the men had any prior records and added that they could face two- to three-year prison sentences each if convicted.

"We are done with the Endup," said Crenshaw, adding that the arrests culminated a months-long undercover investigation. Crenshaw said the undercover narcotics surveillance operations would continue at South of Market nightclubs but police don't have any immediate plans to go back to the Endup.

Last week, Crenshaw praised the Endup for tightening its security to help keep out drugs. The Endup's manager, Markus Barsanti, told the *B.A.R.* that just before police made the arrest inside his club, his security people had already noticed the transaction in progress and were about to stop it, unaware that it was part of a sting operation.

Endup's owner Carl Hanken, who has been critical of what he says has been police harassment of his club, said he was glad to hear that the investigation of the Endup had ended. "We're getting hammered by the cops like you wouldn't believe," said Hanken. "They singled us out because they needed a trophy."

Hanken said he wasn't aware of the GHB overdose outside his club. Hanken suspects the overdose may have happened some time before his club opened at 5:30 a.m. Barsanti added that the GHB overdose couldn't have happened while his club was in operation because if it had, he would have been made aware of it.

Barsanti said he also doubted police accounts that two men were arrested outside his club. He said his security personnel are always very alert to anything going on outside the club and would have noticed any arrests that had been made within view of the club. Both Hanken and Barsanti say that crime occurring in the neighborhood surrounding the Endup is often unfairly pinned on their club.

Last weekend's incidents are the latest in a series of troubles for the Endup. Police are still looking for suspects wanted for the early morning shooting on September 14 that left two people wounded. Police say a man opened fire in the club while it was hosting its regular Monday night "Club Dread" reggae music venue. Witnesses told police the man burst into the club after it had already stopped admitting new patrons. He fired one shot that ripped through a man's abdomen before hitting a woman in the arm. Police are also looking for two other men who accompanied the shooter.

The female victim was treated at SFGH's emergency room and released. The man was admitted to the hospital and has since been released, according to hospital spokeswoman, Gloria Rodriguez.

Endup's management permanently shut down "Club Dread" after the shooting. "The cops told us if you don't shut it down, we will," said Barsanti who added that Club Dread had been meeting at the Endup for five-and-a-half-years and its promoters are looking for a new space. ▼

Knot of a human kind



Jane Philomen Cleland

Transgender families and friends formed a "human knot" at Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere's (COLAGE) third annual Transgender Family Picnic Saturday, September 18, in Golden Gate Park. COLAGE staffer Ryn Gluckman said the event was attended by about 40 people, who played all sorts of games and enjoyed all kinds of good food.

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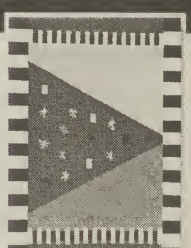
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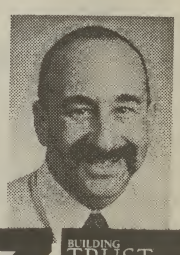
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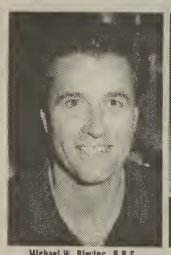
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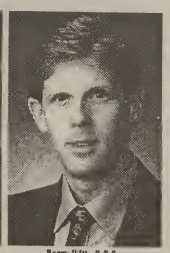
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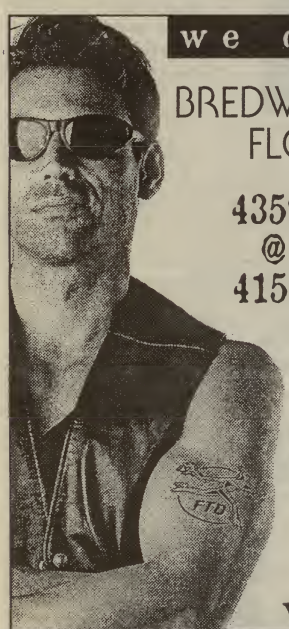
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Harvey Milk Institute begins fall classes

by Liz Highleyman

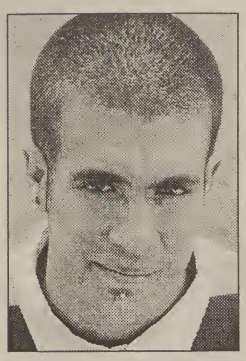
September marks the beginning of a new semester of classes offered by the Harvey Milk Institute (HMI), the world's largest center for queer studies. The fall series, which runs through December, features over 100 courses and workshops appealing to all facets of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community. This is HMI's fifth year of operation; since its founding in 1994, the institute has taught over 9,500 students.

HMI's back to school night is this Wednesday, September 29.

According to HMI Executive Director and Dean Kevin Schaub, the institute's offerings are intended to "help develop the queer individual as a whole person – artistically, culturally, spiritually, historically, and sexually."

HMI recently received funding from the San Francisco Foundation, which has allowed the institute to hire a second paid staff person, Mark Menke, the new program director. Full-time intern Dana Malan will also join HMI's staff this semester.

Among the many courses offered this fall will be the state of queer organizing with Eileen


Program Director Mark Menke

Hansen; a body image workshop for lesbians and bi women; several financial courses including how to purchase your first home; and many art workshops including writing, improvisation, clothes making, performance, and story telling. In keeping with the millennial theme, HMI will offer several history workshops, including histories of the transgender and bisexual communities, an introduction to San Francisco's queer history, the history of gay male porn from 1870 to 1970, and a three-part series of panel discussions on creating, defending, and surviving our history.

As in past years, HMI will offer free classes for youth age 23 and under, including Drag 101 with Sister Mary Mae Himm of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Out(ted) at School, and a zine workshop. A special feature this year is a series of "playshops" on making picture books for children taught by noted picture book creator Remy Charlip.

Wednesday's event takes place from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4235 19th Street at Collingwood. It will feature comedian Karen Ripley and the HMI Improv Troupe, made up of students from Ripley's spring class. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet HMI board members, staff, volunteers, and instructors. Donations ($10-20 suggested) will benefit the institute's scholarship fund. ▼

The new HMI catalog is available at many venues, including A Different Light Bookstore in the Castro, or may be requested by calling (415) 552-7200. Course offerings and enrollment info are also available on HMI's website at www.gayglobalsf.com/harveymilk.

Laguna Honda bond supporters start campaign

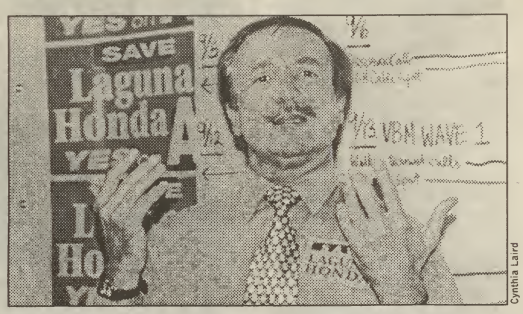
by Cynthia Laird

Supporters of the proposed $299 million bond to rebuild San Francisco's Laguna Honda Hospital kicked off their campaign on Thursday, September 9, with short speeches aimed at recruiting volunteers to phone potential voters and canvass neighborhoods to get the necessary two-thirds vote for Proposition A on the November 2 ballot.

Supporters of the Committee to Save Laguna Honda Hospital include city leaders, such as Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz and City Attorney Louise Renne, as well as labor leaders such as Sal Rosselli, president of the Service Employees International Union Local 250. Proponents said they know they have a huge task ahead of them to get the measure approved.

If approved, Proposition A bond money would be combined with most of the revenue the city is expected to receive from tobacco litigation settlements to rebuild the aging skilled nursing facility that is home to 1,078 people, including people living with AIDS.

General obligation bonds – such as Proposition A – are paid back through property taxes. Of the total debt service, it is estimated that property taxes would pay $314.8 million and tobacco settlement funds would pay for $214.7 million of the total debt service of $529.5 million. The estimated total paid in property taxes over the 20-year life of the bonds would be $1,567 for a home with an assessed value of $300,000 if tobacco receipts are applied.



Cynthia Laird

Sal Rosselli, president of the Service Employees International Union Local 250, urged voters to support Proposition A on the November ballot.

Laguna Honda Hospital received a critical federal report last year that called for an end to the outdated large open wards that house the bulk of the patients. The proposal calls for replacing the large main building with 1,200 skilled nursing beds. There would be one-, two-, and four-person rooms, in compliance with federal law.

The second phase of the project involves building 140 assisted living units that would be where the existing Clarendon Hall sits; while that building was remodeled in the 1970s, it is seismically unsafe. Residents there would live semi-independently and would have access to nursing care and other services.

The hospital receives millions of dollars in federal funds which could be in jeopardy if the open ward issue is not addressed, proponents of Proposition A said.

"It's a place where people get the care they need," Katz told supporters at the kick-off. "It's not an institution, it's a community." He added that when the state forced the hospital to reduce its census last year, acute care hospitals around the city experienced an increase in patients and some people had to leave San Francisco. "Some 800 people volunteer at Laguna Honda. We provide wonderful physician care," Katz added.

"Some people think they will never get old or be in a car accident," Renne said, referring to the fact that many of Laguna Honda's residents are senior citizens and people going through rehabilitation. There is also a hospice unit and Laguna Honda provides outpatient services to other city residents.

Rosselli said passing Proposition A is the number one priority for his union, which has many members who work in the health care field. Thousands of voters need to be called, Rosselli said, and precincts need to be walked. ▼

To volunteer with the campaign, stop by their office at 2362-B Market Street, at Castro, or call (415) 701-1208.


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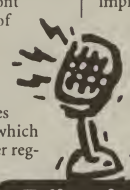
Campaign crumbs

With the presidential campaign season starting earlier than ever before, and with California's all-important presidential primary election having been moved to March, state voters, not surprisingly, are seeing more of the candidates more often. Such was the case last Friday, when Vice President Al Gore breezed into town for a quick stop at City Hall for what can only be described as a "photo op" in front of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) supporters. When the news broke right before Gore's visit that his only announced Democratic opponent, former New Jersey Senator Bill Bradley, had come out against the Knight initiative in an *Advocate* magazine interview, Gore's campaign immediately said that the vice president is also against the ballot measure that would require California to only recognize marriage between a man and a woman as being valid.

Nothing was mentioned of the fact that Gore himself was interviewed by the *Advocate* and that the vice president failed to use that opportunity earlier this month to come out against the divisive Knight initiative. There's nothing like a tight campaign race to make politicians "suddenly see the light." And while we are glad that Gore and Bradley oppose the Knight initiative, paradoxically, they both also oppose same-sex marriage. Go figure.

Nevertheless, Gore arrived in San Francisco fresh on the news that he now opposes the Knight initiative; but he couldn't even use the brief appearance before a gay-friendly crowd to talk about it – Mayor Willie Brown had to do that for him. Gore did use the occasion to present the LGBT Community Center board with a certificate stating the that Fallon Building may be eligible for federal preservation funds; but he didn't bring any money with him, as he has done in other parts of the country for other causes. For awhile there, it didn't look like Gore would be able to say the words "gay" or "lesbian," *but he did manage to do it.*

Which is better than our governor could do: Governor Gray Davis, who accompanied Gore on his swing through the state to tout his endorsement of the vice president, stood silently to the other side of the mayor during the City Hall event and when it was his turn to speak, Davis seemed to not know what to say. He couldn't even bring himself to use the words "gay" or "lesbian" when he made brief remarks about the LGBT Community Center, except when he referred to the center by name. Davis signed the state budget earlier this year that included $1 million for the community center but couldn't use the word "gay" in front of a crowd made up largely of LGBT voters.



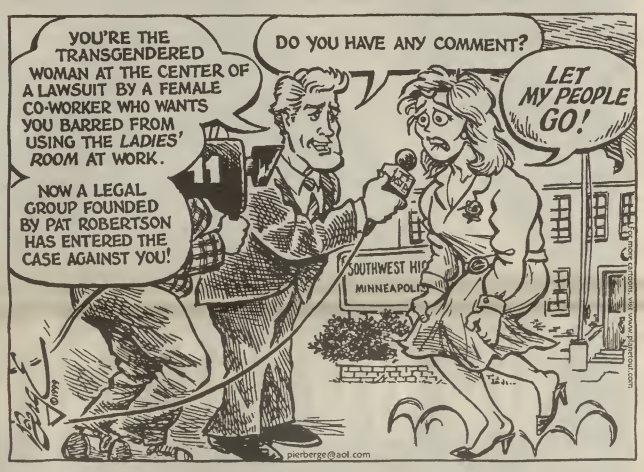
Editorial

Davis can demonstrate his support for the LGBT community by signing several important bills now on his desk. Those pieces of legislation include AB 26, which would establish a domestic partner registry; AB 103, which would create a confidential "unique identifier" code for reporting HIV cases; AB 537, which would provide an administrative recourse to students who have been victims of anti-gay discrimination or harassment; AB 136, which would allow communities to operate needle exchange programs; AB 208, which adds "sexual orientation" to the list of hate crimes for purposes of sentencing convicted criminals; and AB 1001, which would add "sexual orientation" to the list of protected classes in the Fair Employment and Housing Act.

These bills – in their current forms – were the result of compromises to make them more appealing to the governor, and in some cases, were the subject of vicious debate by legislators before they were finally approved. They deserve to be signed to improve the lives of LGBT people throughout the state.

Unfortunately, the governor's office reportedly is being bombarded with letters, phone calls, and faxes from religious conservatives urging him to veto all of the above-mentioned bills. Members of the LGBT community must contact the governor and urge him to sign the bills. Davis reacts to numbers, and the LGBT community cannot sit quietly and allow the governor to hear more from homophobes than from the LGBT community.

Before you spend Sunday having fun at the Folsom Street Fair, take a moment to contact the governor; he must sign or veto all legislation by October 10 and time is running out. We said it last week and we'll say it again. His address is Governor Gray Davis, First Floor, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. His phone number is (916) 445-2841; the fax is (916) 445-4633. ▼



Two years of condoms in bars

by Timothy Leifield

The 1997 Folsom Street Fair marked the debut of Condoms Now!, a community-driven program to insure that free condoms were readily available for gay, bisexual, and curious guys. Since then, 1.7 million condoms have been distributed.

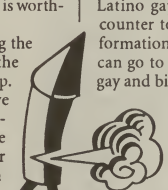
The success of Condoms Now! is the result of a lot of hard work from a great many people in the community who are committed to HIV prevention. These 1.7 million condoms represent the activists who lobbied long and hard for a large scale, ongoing condom distribution program in San Francisco. They represent close to 100 businesses that are willing to be distribution centers – from leather bars to plant stores, dance clubs to beauty salons, cruise bars to coffee shops, and from adult theaters to video arcades – local business owners willing to do their part to help stop AIDS. (And hundreds of bartenders who are willing to remind their customers to stick one in their pocket for later).

They represent the commitment of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the San Francisco Department of Public Health to make certain this program is sufficiently funded. And they represent the volunteers and staff of the Stop AIDS Project who run around town keeping everyone in stock, especially before peak demand times: Pride week and the Folsom and Castro street fairs.

Most importantly, they represent a lot of caring. They represent thousands of HIV-positive and HIV-negative guys taking care of each other. They represent a community that cares about itself and its future.

We produce a lot of workshops on HIV prevention and we host a lot of community forums. We strive to address any issue that might affect our resolve to stay safe. We talk about sex and drugs, sex and booze, sex and race, sex and leather, sex and money. We talk about being horny all the time. We talk about not being horny anymore.

But all that talk, all that resolve, is worthless if condoms aren't available.



Guest Opinion

That's our first priority: getting the condoms to you, the user. Along the way, another benefit has turned up. We realized that every time we dropped off condoms, it was an opportunity to check in with all the different folks who make up our community. What's happening in the Polk? What's bugging guys in SOMA? How will we outreach Latinos that don't identify as gay or bi?

In the Polk, there is a lot of concern about the hustlers and about the speed use among them. Through the condom program, our neighborhood organizer got to know several business owners who then became involved in sponsoring Working Boys, a photography project that not only brought young street workers in for condoms and lube, but also gave them a hit of self-esteem when their photos were displayed in an art gallery setting.

After meeting several members of the leather community, our SOMA organizer heard about the need for information on safe SM. He brought together a group that worked on guidelines and worked to raise money to print the piece. To date, 7,000 copies of *S/M SEX … Safely* have been distributed, and many more will go out this Sunday at the Folsom Street Fair.

Last month, places that distribute condoms in the Mission District got involved in prevention efforts in another way. They helped spread the word through the Families Change, Families Grow campaign that Latino gay and bi men aren't alone. The counter top displays included contact information on four agencies where Latinos can go to meet and talk with other Latino gay and bi men.

We're now trying to expand the program, to bring in more businesses that have called wanting to participate. We also want to provide condoms to several of the residential hotels that cater to gay and bi men who are nearly homeless. (Feel free to call or write your favorite supervisors to encourage their support!)

Condom distribution is about returning HIV prevention to the community, which, after all, created HIV prevention in the first place. So, the next time you're out and about and you see a Condoms Now! container, pick up a handful and thank the business for helping stop this epidemic. Then, do your part. ▼

Timothy Leifield is executive director of the Stop AIDS Project. Stop AIDS is looking for more volunteers to help with condom distribution and outreach. Please call (415) 575-0150 for more information.

Valley Pride owner responds

I read R.J. Stone's comments *[Mailstrom, August 26]* regarding the current atmosphere and subsequent opinions as they relate to our lease agreement and future survival in the Castro. You have no argument from me when it comes down to the fact that any law-abiding citizen has the right to conduct business in a fair market environment with whomever they choose.

I do, however, take issue with your venomous and inaccurate statements used to describe both my place of business and my personal history and relationships with the Castro community. My family and I have always strived to provide a clean and safe shopping environment with a selective inventory, priced as reasonably low and competitive as possible. If you have ever shopped at my store and had any concerns regarding these matters, this is the first I have ever heard of them. And had you personally communicated these and any other issues to me, I would have addressed them accordingly with courtesy, concern and respect.

The part of your commentary that disturbs and hurts me most is your reference to my so called indifference and insensitivity towards the gay and Castro community. I will tell you that it is truthfully painful as my family and I have always embraced our community in the best of times and at a time of crisis. During these past 20 years we have attempted to provide our neighborhood with friendly service and, in addition, have shared the joys of the births of our children and grandchildren with our faithful customers, many of whom have become close friends. We in turn have also listened and been witness to the many changes in our customers' lives.

Although I am extremely hesitant in publicly announcing this, our Valley Pride family has never denied our loyal customers food or basic necessities in their times of need. To this day I still have in my possession receipts totaling hundreds of dollars – with some dating back years – that belong to customers needing to purchase food and other items in their time of financial crisis. I have never pressured anyone to settle these accounts and don't intend to do so in the near future.



I am not sure what the future holds in store for Valley Pride and can only trust in God and the integrity of those I conduct my business with. I do know, however, that my family and I will continue to embrace and serve the Castro community with integrity, dignity, and pride. We embrace and thank our gay community for their past and continued support and welcome all of our neighbors with open arms. And as long as we are in business here in the Castro, you too, R.J. Stone, are always welcome.

Danny Zeida
Owner, Valley Pride Market

Music fest activities clarified

Some of the facts present in your September 2 article, "Women's music fest alters TG policy" are inaccurate.

There have not been any Camp Trans protests for the last five years at Michigan Womyns' Music Festival. The first Camp Trans took place in 1994, and was an outgrowth of protests that had been going on at the MWMF festival since 1992. There was a protest in 1995 at MWMF that was carried out by Davina Gabriel, Rica Fredericksen, and Nancy Forrest.

Also, Transexual Menace has not been the sole instigator or organizer of any protest at MWMF until this year.

Gail Sondegaard
Transexual News Telegraph

[Editor's note: We apologize for the inaccuracies.]

Happy to hear of music fest changes

I was thrilled to read the Michigan Womyns' Music Festival has "altered" its policy on gender, only to have my excitement squashed when none of the local dykes I know (who just returned) seem to know anything about it.

Moreover, they are insisting that there has been no change to the "woman born woman" policy. I am eager to read more about this.

Hope Berry
San Francisco

Chain stores in the Castro

It seems to be an article of faith that only "big corporations" can afford the Castro's high rents. Last I checked though, these chain stores were not charitable organizations. How is it that they can afford the high rent and still make a profit, but "local" businesses can't? Perhaps part of the problem is mismanagement and/or bad judgment on the part of some owners, such as overestimating the market for overpriced food, clothing, furnishings, or whatever. Several recent failures appear to me to fall in this category, rather than any alleged unfair competition from chain stores.

John W. Atteridg
San Francisco

Hand out those whistles

I have grown increasingly concerned as I see the growing numbers of articles about anti-gay violence in the gay media. Whether it is a soldier in the South or a gay couple here, it seems to me that our community simply accepts the role of victim for these bashers.

Two weeks ago, I was encouraged when I found the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence passing out whistles and anti-violence literature to the community as part of a stop the violence campaign. The Sister I spoke with said the Sisters had distributed over 1,000 whistles this month, and had a goal of distributing 10,000 whistles by the end of the year. While distributing whistles may not seem like much, consider this for a moment: If 10,000 people in our community are carrying whistles and are prepared to respond to anti-gay violence, are we not safer than we ever have been before?

In the sea of ink about increasing violence, why is that we have seen no coverage of the Sisters and like-minded groups who are trying to do something about this? Certainly the *B.A.R.* and the other gay press can afford a few column inches to tell the community where they can learn more about combating violence. This isn't just about reporting a story, it's about making sure our community stays safe, vital, and alive.

Ann Thomas
Pacifica, CA

Center should adjust its plans

Sean O'Hearn makes a timely suggestion to have the Community Center incorporate a queer youth shelter. *[Mailstrom, September 9.]* The need is undisputed and will continue for the foreseeable future.

The Community Center Board has demonstrated its capacity to respond to community input in the past by incorporating the Fallon Building into the center and by returning the Coors donation. Who knew at the beginning of the debate about the Fallon Building that the state would allot $1 million toward its preservation. We are about to invest over $11 million in the center and we have an opportunity to fill a big gap in current services. I find it compelling that the center adjust its plans to meet this need.

Hank Wilson
San Francisco

The 'Q' word

It is unfortunate that young gays continue to be burdened, by the PC crown within our community with the 'Q' word, as if they don't already have enough of a challenge putting up with homophobia among the general public.

When a minority is at best 10 percent of a population, isn't it much better to network and make friends with those who support our existence, let alone our causes, rather than use confrontation tactics?

Let's encourage those inclined to help us, and stop throwing into their faces extraneous issues, and the use of the 'Q' word is, in my humble opinion, one of those divisive issues.

We need to work together and network to gather all the help we can get to defeat the Knight initiative.

John Schank
San Pablo, CA

Schmitz verdict was just

I read that Jonathan Schmitz, convicted of killing fellow *Jenny Jones* show guest Scott Amedure, has been sentenced to 25 to 50 years in prison.

While this isn't going to bring anyone back, it seems to me to be more of a victory for justice than when, in April, jurors in a civil wrongful death case against Warner Bros., the corporate parent of the *Jenny Jones* show, awarded Amedure's family $25 million.

I've never understood the logic in blaming anyone else for the actions taken by Mr. Schmitz. It seems to me that, in blaming the vehicle in which a man revealed his affection for another man, it is assumed there is something wrong in the revelation that makes violence understandable and justifiable.

I know that the Amedure family has gone through hell over this and wants someone to pay for what has happened to Scott. What the producers of the talk show did was arguably lacking in sound judgment and may even have been wrong. But it was Jonathan Schmitz alone who shot and killed Scott Amedure.

Being "ambushed" on TV with the "shocking surprise" that a man wants you isn't justification for homicide. There is never a justification for the type of actions taken by Jonathan Schmitz. Holding anyone else responsible for his choices and actions is wrong.

I'm not a fan of daytime TV, but I've seen enough of it to know that what happened on that episode of the *Jenny Jones* show wasn't so unique. People are

next page ▶

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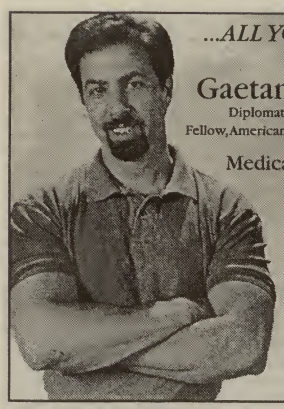
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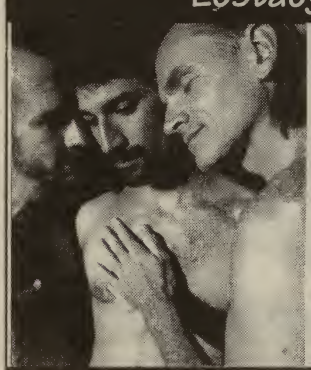
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Mailstrom

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being surprised on national television continually. If someone says something to me that I don't like or find embarrassing, how I deal with it is my responsibility. No excuses, no blaming anyone else.

Steve Weller
San Francisco

The Knight initiative

With regard to the recent news articles and discussions regarding the Knight initiative I would like to add my comments.

Initially, it seems like our leadership has failed us again. The only strategies I have heard anybody in the leadership roles suggest is more fundraising. This leads to strategy meetings where the decision is to hold expensive fundraising parties that lead to more fundraising parties. Where are the rallies, public speaking events, and radio and television appearances?

I would like to suggest a couple of lines of reasoning you may use when talking with people who may agree or disagree with this initiative.

Most of the arguments against gay marriage revolve around religion. Remind people that we have separation of church and state in this country. If your religion forbids the marriage of two people of the same gender, this is fine, but our laws are not governed by any particular religion. Also, not all religions ban gay marriage, some encourage it. Are we to continue to deny these people their freedom to practice their religion as they see fit?

By the way, has anyone else noticed the clear violation of the law by the Mormon Church in this ballot measure? They can not keep their tax-exempt status and participate in the partisan politics, and yet that is what they are doing.

Something else to point out, almost everyone on the Christian right is a Christian supremacist. They believe their particular brand of Christianity is superior to all others and all other religions.

If you think there is a hint of racism above, consider this: some of the groups supporting the Knight initiative include the American Nazi Party, the Ku Klux Klan, the Church of the Creator, the Church of the Christian Identity, and White Aryan Resistance. I have yet to hear anyone in the Knight camp attempt to distance themselves from such allies.

Another point is whether or not homosexuality and bisexuality are a choice. We all know the truth, but our enemies can not be bothered with it. So point out to them that is none of their business who you fall in love with. If it is considered rude to tell a person that someone they love is too fat, thin, blond, bald, tall, short, etc., then it is rude to tell someone what gender their lover should be.

They claim gay marriage will destroy the family. Even if their definition of family was universal that argument does not hold up. Does anyone really believe the day gay marriage becomes legal, people will divorce just to pursue a gay relationship?

Finally, California already has laws banning gay marriage. Why do we need another?

Another thing we must consider is the resistance to the idea of legalized marriage within our own community. Marriage has often been used by nations to determine citizenship and civil rights. Germany in the 1930s first stopped recognizing marriages between Jews and gentiles, then between two Jewish persons. Shortly thereafter, Jews were no longer considered citizens. In this country, if you are not a citizen and you marry a citizen, you gain certain rights – including a faster path to become a citizen. Everyone in our community should have the option of legal marriage, not everyone has to get married.

There is a perception in this country that if you are born here and pay taxes, you have the same rights as anyone else. It is important for us that we point out the fallacy of this to those who believe that.

Keith Gardner
Newark, CA

So mad he could spit

In response to the September 2 article by Terry Beswick "The 'lowdown on oral sex'": it makes me want to spit.

I find it amazing that in the article, he did not even mention or refer to the fact the forum was sponsored by the Stop AIDS Project and the Department of Public Health (DPH), as part of their federally-funded attacks on gay men.

Or even the fact that the panels were hand-picked by the Stop AIDS Project. In the article Mr. Beswick quoted or referred to one of the panelists, Paul Cotton, the bathhouse blow job expert from Berkeley. Yet the Stop AIDS Project has taken no position on reopening the baths in San Francisco.

But yet at every forum the Stop AIDS Project wastes no time in giving the community bad news, drums up data or research that targets gay male sex as ill-responsible, dirty, and unsafe. As if gay men need instruction on how to have sex with each other.

Their so-called data or research is gathered by volunteers. It is then put into their data bank of collecting information about gay men in San Francisco spits and spins out to the community as valid science. Their partnership with the DPH and the CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] to send out spies into our community keeps their treasure chest filled with money makes me want to spit.

The Stop AIDS stalkers that prey on gay men in our community are a waste of taxpayer dollars. Ask yourself this question: If a group of volunteers stopped our lesbian sisters or women on the street and asked them personal information about their sex lives, wouldn't all hell break lose? When will the Stop AIDS Project and DPH give us a forum on lesbian sex? Don't women and lesbians get AIDS too?

We as a community have to start sending out positive messages about gay male sex and stop labeling gay men as AIDS spreaders and mindless men that need instructions on how to give a blow job. I wonder if Monica spit or swallowed when she gave the president multiple blow jobs? Let's ask the Stop AIDS Project, they're so good at collecting information.

The Stop AIDS Project forum funding is solely based on targeting gay men in our community, not women, lesbians, or straights. These forums are geared to create fear in having male-to-male sex, period.

Science from the Atlanta conference on AIDS tells us that blacks, Latinos, women, and straights are now the biggest carriers of HIV. Not gay men.

Shame on the Stop AIDS Project and the DPH for having a forum with out-of-town panelists that work at a bathhouse. It is so laughable that the Stop AIDS Project and DPH have to ship in their so called expert on bathhouse blow jobs, because of Dr. Katz's ban on bathhouses in San Francisco.

I guess the Stop AIDS Project piggy-bank needed a refill after spending a majority of its money on high-gloss, sexy advertisements (you know the ads that show almost naked men), to get its city and federal money for forums. It makes me just want to spit.

Gil Criswell
San Francisco

[The first paragraph of the article stated that the forum was sponsored by the Department of Public Health and the Stop AIDS Project.]

'Hate crime' a figure of speech

Sometimes I wish I could just go blindly down popular paths, stop thinking for myself, and reap the benefits of being part of the vocal majority. I could wrap myself in political correctness and enjoy the safety of numbers.

But I like to sleep at night.

David John Pini (Mailstrom August 26) is correct when he describes "hate crime" as a figure of speech. He aptly compares it to a bad hair day, and I concur. Neither one has any real meaning. He has even created a new term (new to me, at least): "hate criminals." What's next? "Hate justice?" "Hate juries?" "Hate tribunals?"

Mr. Pini means well, I'm certain, but he is overzealous. He suggests that a so-called "hate criminal" declares war on everyone, and should be punished more harshly for that vague, non-criminal hypothesis. I've said here before, and I'll say again, that if we are to start punishing for our thoughts, then we will soon all be in jail.

What is the goal of "hate crime" legislation? What do we hope to achieve by making such a distinction? More severe punishment than the law would otherwise allow? Deterrence? To send some airy fairy message to society about tolerance? Go ahead, knock yourself out. Nothing will change as a result, with the possible exception of more hatred being generated against those who would seek to control our thinking.

I contend that the very term "hate crime" is a hall of mirrors; a vengeful reflection between the haters and the hated, who are interchangeable. Will we be isolating a "hate gene" soon, and performing fetal surgery to correct it? Will we no longer be permitted to acknowledge our feelings? Will we be required to prowl the back alleys searching for soulmates?

A crime is a crime. Prove that the crime was committed and punish the perpetrator. If you fail to prove, then let him go. Stop looking for the motivation behind the motive. Motivations are not violations of the law.

If a white man is killed by a black woman, is it a "sex hate crime" because she hates men? Or is it a "racial hate crime" because she hates whites? Is it both? What if he's gay? Maybe she hates homosexuals. Can't you see, Mr. Pini et al, how utterly ridiculous this becomes?

Are there no blacks who hate blacks? Are there no gays who hate gays? Will they have lesser punishments for their crimes against their own simply because we misguidedly believe that we are so tightly and uniformly categorized?

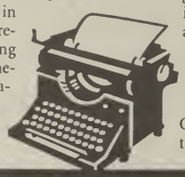
I've asked a lot of questions, and I'd really like some answers.

Fred Kopp
Guerneville, CA

Gore, Bradley shun Knight initiative

by Wayne Friday

Democratic presidential hopefuls **Bill Bradley** and Vice President **Al Gore** both announced last week that they will oppose an anti-gay marriage initiative that will be on California's March 7, 2000 ballot. The measure, sponsored by state Senator **Pete Knight**, an anti-gay Republican from Palmdale, stated that only marriage between a man and a woman will be recognized in this state. Though a top Bradley staffer told reporters that his candidate personally does not favor same-sex marriages, (as a U.S. senator, Bradley once voted in favor of a measure to prevent states from enacting legislation to allow same-sex marriage), the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force last week released a letter from Bradley in which he wrote that if he were a California voter he would vote against the Knight initiative because "I believe it is divisive and has potential for contributing to an atmosphere of hate." Bradley's position was also stated in a yet-to-be published interview with the *Advocate* magazine.



Our Man Friday

Gore, who visited San Francisco last Friday, September 17, during a two-day tour of the state, issued a statement saying that he, too, "will not support the Knight initiative." A spokesperson for the Gore campaign said that "the vice president believes that we should not be introducing legislation that's solely designed to divide us," but added that Gore's opposition to the Knight initiative does not mean that the vice president actually supports same-sex marriage. "He [Gore] believes traditional marriage should remain intact," the spokesperson said.

Despite both Gore and Bradley's continued personal disapproval of same-sex marriage, California opponents of the Knight initiative applauded the candidates' willingness to oppose a measure that is leading in recent polls. A spokesperson for the Californians for Fairness (No on Knight) campaign said the positions of the two Democratic presidential candidates are not incongruous. "It's clear the Knight initiative is unfair, divisive, and destructive," the spokesperson said.

While opponents of the Knight initiative were openly challenging gay and lesbian Republican supporters of Texas Governor **George W. Bush**, the leading GOP presidential candidate, to get his views on the Knight initiative, Gore, speaking to a group of gay and lesbian activists in San Francisco last week, made an obvious reference to the GOP front-runner's refusal earlier this year to support a measure in Texas that would have toughened hate crime statutes to include crimes against gays. "We need to fight hate in our schools, on our streets, and in our hearts," Gore said. "In light of what has happened during recent rampages [as occurred in a Texas church last week], I do not understand how some can still argue that hate crimes are no different than other crimes."

Meanwhile, Bush, in answering questions put to him recently by an anti-gay rights newsletter called *Straight from the Heart*, that is published by anti-gay rights activist **Bill Horn**, says that he is adamantly opposed to gay marriages, and declared that a recent court decision that struck down a ban on gays in the Boy Scouts had "erred." In answering questions from the anti-gay newsletter, the Bush headquarters issued a statement last week that said, "Governor Bush believes marriage is between a man and a woman and therefore does not believe in gay marriages." Bush also said he opposed adoption by gay couples because "he believes children ought to be adopted only in families with a man and a woman who are married."

Clearly, the announcement by Bradley and Gore in California last week that they will oppose the controversial Knight initiative will mean that opponents of the initiative will pressure Bush for his stand on the GOP-supported plan when he starts earnestly campaigning in the state, though some Republican gays were privately saying that their leading candidate "would not be pressured into the debate."

While Gore and Bradley, as well as other Republican nomination rivals, claim that the Texas governor is constantly vague on many of the issues – particularly those like gay issues – Bush's people in California say that he will provide detailed agendas "on many issues" as the California 2000 primary campaign unfolds but will do so at his own pace.

Politics and people

In a move that could provide Gore with an important boost in an all-important state, Governor **Gray Davis** officially endorsed the Gore presidential campaign, as did the state's two U.S. senators, **Dianne Feinstein** and **Barbara Boxer**; Gore also has the solid backing of other powerful Democrats such as San Francisco Mayor **Willie Brown**, Assembly Speaker **Antonio Villaraigosa**, and Lieutenant Governor **Cruz Bustamante**. However, one powerful Democratic maverick, state Senate leader **John Burton**, said he was "toying with the idea of supporting actor **Warren Beatty** if he runs." Burton, who suffered a mild heart attack last week, was hospitalized for a few days but is now recovering at his San Francisco home.

In what was once considered a national political sideshow, the battle for the nomination of the relatively new Reform Party could turn out to be very interesting. Conservative **Patrick Buchanan**, probably the best known of the right wingers among the Republicans, is set to bolt the GOP and fight it out with Minnesota Governor **Jesse Ventura** for control of the Reform Party and the ultimate presidential nomination of that party next year. Ventura, who supports more liberal issues like abortion and gay rights, is not happy with Buchanan's far right, homophobic, pro-life positions and is said to be looking for a candidate to fight it out with Buchanan to prevent the former talk show host from getting the nomination. Ventura is looking at New York millionaire developer **Donald Trump** or former Connecticut Senator **Lowell Weicker**, but Buchanan reportedly has the support of Reform Party founder **Ross Perot** sewn up and appears ready to bolt the Republicans (to the delight, of course, of national Democratic leaders) and probably will end up as the nominee of the Reform Party next July. Any way one slices this, Buchanan running a strong third party campaign for the White House next year spells big problems for Bush or whoever ends up as the Republican nominee and good news for the Democratic nominee.

Incidentally, Washington insiders are privately saying that **Elizabeth Dole**'s campaign is in big trouble and unless she pulls off an upset in the New Hampshire primary – which is unlikely – she will probably be forced to drop out. An indication of how bad things are for the Dole effort: **Bob Dole**, husband of the candidate, wrote a whining letter to the *Washington Post* last week that criticized "stingy" and "nit-picking" coverage of his wife's campaign, suggesting that "the mainstream media cannot abide the fact that she is a qualified Republican woman running for president." In a follow-up interview with the *Rochester N.Y. Democrat and Chronicle*, Mr. Dole admitted that Mrs. Dole is finding it hard to raise money ("you can't run your car if you don't have gasoline") and said he's not sure how long her campaign would continue.

Supervisor **Mark Leno**, one of those in the forefront in the fight against the Knight initiative, has challenged state Senator Knight to a debate on the issue, but Leno shouldn't hold his breath until Knight accepts that challenge.

Longtime San Jose gay activist **Ken Yeager** kicks off his campaign for a city council seat there this Sunday, September 26 at his San Jose home, and Yeager can expect a lot of support from friends in San Francisco. The election of Yeager would make him that city's first openly gay councilmember, but he needs help with campaign donations. Yeager, who has already been endorsed by San Jose Mayor **Ron Gonzales**, can be reached at (408) 297-1024 or KYeager@aol.com.

And in San Francisco, **Lawrence Wong**, president of the community college board, will be a candidate for supervisor next year in District 3, while other likely gay and lesbian candidates who should win are incumbents **Leslie Katz** in District 6, Leno in District 8, and **Tom Ammiano** in District 9. Board of Education President **Juanita Owens** is also a likely candidate in District 5.

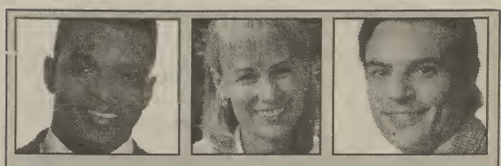
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page 31 ▶

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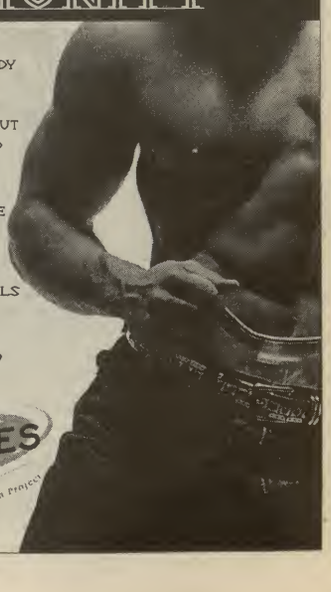
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Harper's: Matthew Shepard & compulsory heterosexuality

compiled by GLAAD

In its September 1999 issue, *Harper's* magazine re-examines the Matthew Shepard murder from a provocative new angle: rather than focusing on the sexual orientation of the victim, frequent *Harper's* contributor JoAnn Wypijewski looks closely at the sexual orientations of the killers and the environment which may have helped shape them. Wypijewski's excellent in-depth look at the culture of "compulsory heterosexuality" defies easy categorization – it neither demonizes Shepard's killers nor venerates their victim, choosing instead to look at the history, character, and culture of Wyoming and the social forces that simultaneously buckle under the weight of and reinforce institutionalized homophobia.



In language showing some disdain for the tepid concept of "tolerance," Wypijewski examines the pressure to conform to masculine heterosexual norms – a pressure she believes not only causes homophobia, but also damages heterosexual men. "Among the tolerance peddlers, it's always the 'lifestyle' of the gay guy," she writes, "never the 'lifestyle' of the straight guy or the culture of compulsory heterosexuality." She proceeds to quote a University of Wyoming student in a discussion with a woman opposed to violence, but who was convinced that homosexuality is immoral.

"The issue isn't tolerance," he said. "We don't need to learn tolerance; we need to learn love." For Wypijewski, love is not just an abstract concept – it is "life's defining line," one held firm by "all the little things of a culture, mostly unnoticed and unremarked, like the way in which the simplest show of affection is a decision about safety, like the way in which a man entwined with a woman is the stuff of everyday commerce, but a man expressing vulnerability is equivalent to a quaint notion of virginity – you save it for marriage." Ever fearful of the stigma of homosexuality, the article suggests that heterosexual men escalate their isolating culture of masculinity until homophobia consumes them.

Please thank *Harper's* for publishing this vital, remarkable feature.

Contact Mr. Lewis H. Lapham, Editor, Harper's Magazine, 666 Broadway, New York, NY 10012, e-mail: letters@harpers.org.

20/20 gives a voice to homeless gay youth

ABC News' *20/20* opened its 1999-2000 season with an extensive segment called "Throwaway Teens," which examined the plights of three homeless lesbian and gay youths who have been thrown out of their homes on account of their sexual orientations. The segment opens with a young man walking: "He spends his days going nowhere," explains *20/20*'s Connie Chung. "Barely visible to the people he passes, he matters to no one. [H]e is homeless, fending for himself, far from anything he ever knew." Later, Chung explains that the youth, Daniel, "is certain that he was thrown out [of his family's house] because he is gay, sent on his way without tears, without even a goodbye." Forced to find livelihood, Daniel admits that he has turned to prostitution during rough times. In the end, he says, "I miss my home. I'd like to tell my mom and my family that I love them and that I wish that they would accept me for who I am and just love me again."

At times, the segment seemed needlessly sensationalistic – with examples including gritty and blurred street footage and one teaser which broke to commercial with a description of these youths as "so young and struggling to survive – the price of being gay." Furthermore, in spite of some passing references to the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center and a brief camera tour of the Hetrick-Martin Institute (HMI), the general tone of the piece seemed almost hopeless: comments selected from interviews with HMI Executive Director Verna Eggleston were insightful, but focused on the plight and not the solution.

Please thank *20/20* for bringing much-needed attention to an underserved segment of our community and urge them to follow-up with the story – to show a hopeful side that really does exist.

Contact Mr. Victor Neufeld, Executive Producer, 20/20, 147 Columbus Avenue, New York, NY 10023, fax: (212) 456-0533, e-mail: 2020@abcnews.com.

LA Times: Two 'Doubly Devoted' families

In its weekly "Sunday Album" feature, the *Los Angeles Times* offers an in-depth look at the profile of a family. In the September 12 edition, *Times* staff writer Duane Noriyuki profiled two families: the Barnes-Wallaces and the Alford-Keatings. Each family has two children, and each finds itself dealing with the everyday joys and struggles of parenthood. The only difference is that, as families headed by lesbian couples, they must also educate and protect their children from the homophobia they face because of their mothers.

"Doubly Devoted" is significant for several reasons. The depth of the profiles is exceptional, probing the strength and quality of the relationships between mothers and children. Significantly, Noriyuki shows that the love of these mothers has resulted in sensitive, compassionate children who understand and embrace diversity. The article also avoids the common journalistic mistake of seeking out anti-gay voices to "balance" the stories of the moms and their families.

In addition to the feature, the *Times* includes a comprehensive list of resources for lesbian and gay families, with contact information for the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN); Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE); Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG); the Family Pride Coalition; and the Straight Spouse Network. By creating awareness of these important organizations, the *Times* provides its readers with crucial resources for dealing with the widespread social resistance and discrimination felt by the profiled families.

Including the Barnes-Wallaces and the Alford-Keatings in the *Times*' standing family feature demonstrates that these families are as typical and as extraordinary as any other. Please thank the *Los Angeles Times* for this excellent feature and for the valuable service their resource list provides to the members and families of our community.

Contact Ms. Kathryn Downing, Publisher, Los Angeles Times, Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, CA 90053, fax: (213) 237-4712, fax: (213) 237-7679, e-mail: letters@latimes.com.

New York Times' triple play

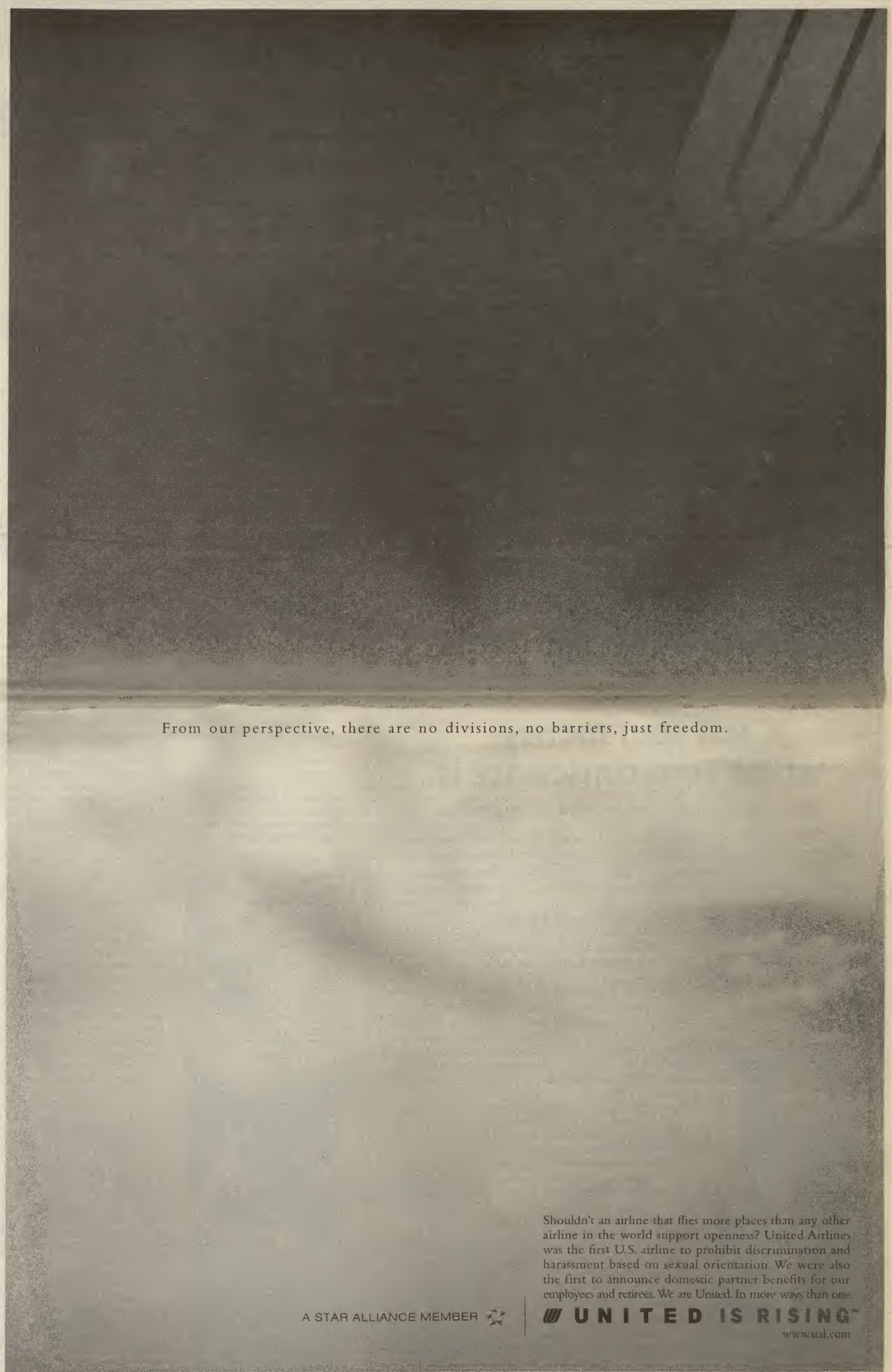
Historically, the world of professional sports and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) community have not meshed well. In the case of Billy Bean, the conflict between his passion for baseball and his sexual orientation drove him deep into the closet. An outfielder for the Detroit Tigers, the Los Angeles Dodgers, and the San Diego Padres before leaving the game in 1995, Bean's sexual orientation put him at odds with the "fiercely competitive and hyper-masculinized arena of major team sports." Bean's story, which broke earlier this year in the *Miami Herald*, has recently received extensive coverage by the *New York Times*.

In the September 6 front-page story, "A Major League Player's Life of Isolation and Subterfuge," *Times* sports columnist Robert Lipsyte does a thorough job of exploring the tension between Bean's love of the game and his sexual identity, tracing both his career path and his coming out with sensitivity and insight. Two other pieces that appeared in the *Times*' Sports section also provided good coverage of the larger issues surrounding the Bean story.

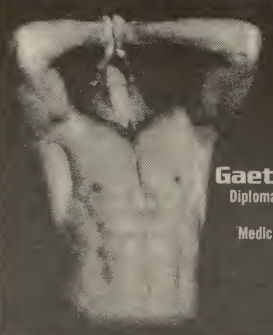
Please thank the *New York Times* for tackling this very important issue.

Contact Mr. Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, Publisher, and Mr. Neil Amdur, Sports Editor, New York Times, 229 West 43rd Street, New York, NY 10036-3913, e-mail: letters@nytimes.com. ▼

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California partners law a principled compromise

by Dale Carpenter

California's Legislature has approved a domestic partners policy that partisans on at least three sides of the issue will regard as an unprincipled compromise. Instead, it is one of those rare political triumphs: a necessary compromise that actually has principle behind it.

Under the new laws, California will create a first-of-its-kind statewide domestic partners registry. The registry itself will grant almost no tangible legal benefits to couples except a requirement that hospitals must allow domestic partners to visit their sick or injured loved ones. And state workers will be able to enlist registered partners under their employee health plans.

To qualify as domestic partners, a couple must certify that they have "chosen to share one another's lives in an intimate and committed relationship of mutual caring." Further, they must live together, be at least 18 years old, share living expenses, and not be related by blood.

One more little thing: the domestic partners must be of the same sex.

Advocates had originally wanted to include opposite-sex partners in the bill as well. But California Governor Gray Davis, a moderate Democrat, insisted that only same-sex couples should be covered. (The law does allow opposite-sex partners age 62 or older to register, a testament to the political power of the senior citizens' lobby.) Across the country, domestic partnership policies have been proliferating. According to a recent report by the Human Rights Campaign, some 2,855 employers now extend health and other benefits to the domestic partners of their employees. That's up from only a few dozen at the beginning of the decade. Numerous cities and counties also offer the benefits.



Most of these policies have covered opposite-sex as well as same-sex couples. This has usually been done in knee-jerk fashion, with no consideration of why the domestic partners concept arose in the first instance – to help gay couples who aren't allowed to wed. California is bucking the trend, and the state is likely to feel the heat from every direction.

On the anti-gay side, religious conservatives object that government recognition of same-sex domestic partnerships legitimizes gay relationships. They warn that domestic partnerships are the first step toward same-sex marriage. That is a horror they hope to forestall, in part, by way of a California referendum in March 2000 that would bar recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states.

Among advocates of gay civil rights, many on the left and a few on the right will cry foul for different reasons.

Much of the left, especially the feminist left, has long criticized marriage as an oppressive, patriarchal institution. Paula Ettelbrick forcefully articulated that myopic perspective in a famous essay written 10 years ago. Ettelbrick praised the domestic partners movement as "an important part of this progress [away from marriage] insofar as it validates nonmarital relationships." However, she cautioned against "framing the push for legal recognition of domestic partners as ... a stepping stone to marriage." She urged gays instead to focus on the goal of "radically reordering society's view of family."

Interestingly, Ettelbrick's left and the religious right have the same vision of the cultural function of gays: to somehow revolutionize society. And they share the same fear: that recognition of same-sex domestic partnerships will lead to gay marriage.

Ettelbrick will not like what is happening in California. The state's law withholds legal recognition of opposite-sex domestic partners precisely in order to preserve the incentive for such couples to marry. It offers recognition to same-sex couples only as a surrogate for the real thing. When gay marriage is finally allowed, this rationale will evaporate – and so can domestic partnerships. California's law reinforces the privileged position marriage holds.

The conservative principle behind same-sex-only domestic partnership policies is that they give as much legal recognition to gay relationships as the culture will presently allow without trampling on the primacy of marriage.

Nevertheless, on the gay right, a few will protest that domestic partnerships are a poor substitute for marriage. Registering a domestic partner entails nowhere near the same legal and social commitment of marrying her, and confers nowhere near the same legal and social benefits. That much is true. But until an actual, legally sanctioned gay marriage is performed in this country, gay couples must live in the real world where loved ones need health insurance, bereavement leave, and all the other practical supports domestic partnership policies can provide.

Some gay conservatives also fear that the recognition of domestic partnerships will drain our enthusiasm from the ultimate goal of full-fledged marriage by sating our appetites with prosaic things like prescription drug benefits.

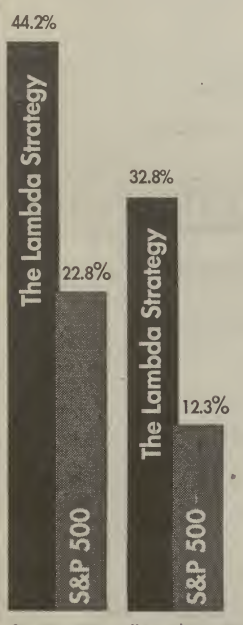
The opposite seems more likely, in the long run at least. And here's where the anti-marriage left and the anti-gay right prove shrewder observers of the culture. They understand that change comes when expectations rise, not when they are low. Gay couples, having tasted the second-class legitimacy of domestic partnerships, will soon demand a first-class treatment they would not have dared to dream possible a few years before.

And the rest of the country, which sensibly distrusts convulsive social change in *any* direction, having seen that the sky didn't fall, will take the next incremental step. Gay marriage won't seem so revolutionary then, and the supposed revolutionaries will seem downright conservative. ▼

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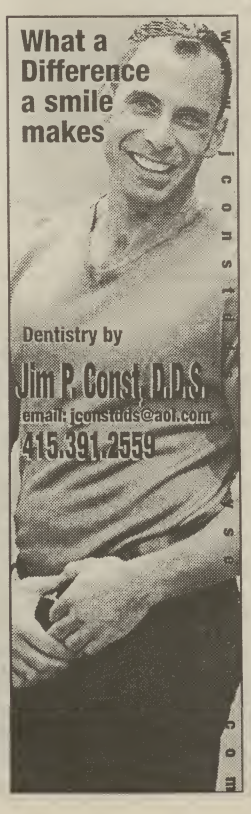
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Castro hit-and-run

Witnesses wanted

by Jane Warner
and Ron McGlashan

Castro and Market streets, September 14, 9:55 p.m.: A man who says he was the victim of a hit-and-run last week in the Castro is asking that witnesses or anyone with information come forward. Devon Raphael said he was crossing the intersection of Market and Castro streets last Tuesday night when a car came barreling down the street, hitting and dragging him by the rear tire. Raphael says he does not remember much about the incident, except that the car was big (perhaps a Lincoln) and there was a man sitting on a garbage can nearby. Please report helpful information to (415) 431-8932.

Crime & Punishment

Armed robbery

16th and Church streets, September 18, 1:15 a.m.: A man getting into his car parked on 16th Street was approached by a suspect who ran up to him, pointed a handgun, and demanded his money. The victim said he didn't have any money, and the suspect took a bag from the back seat containing $1,000 worth of Japanese knives and the victim's cell phone, then drove off in a blue mini van. The suspect is described as a mustached white male, 22 years old, 5 feet 6 inches tall, weighing about 145 pounds and wearing a hooded sweatshirt.

Castro hate crime

Jerusalem Shoppe, 313 Noe Street, September 17. The owner of Jerusalem Shoppe reported that sometime between closing and reopening, someone had painted a large swastika on the sidewalk fronting his store. The owner said he had no idea who the suspect could be. The incident is under investigation.

Restaurant burglary

Bombay restaurant, 2217 Market, September 18, 4 a.m.: Police responding to a burglar alarm discovered that the front door of the restaurant had been kicked in and the cash register was pried open. The owner later estimated that about $20 in change was stolen. The restaurant was dusted for fingerprints and an investigation is under way.

Once again

Beck Motor Lodge, 2222 Market, September 16, 3 a.m.: A man picked up a date at The Cafe early last Thursday morning, drove to Safeway to buy a few things, and when he returned, his date and his CD player were gone. The victim directed officers to his date's hotel room, where they found him with the CD player. Arrested and booked was Nick Freshour, 28. ▼

This column is brought to you as a public service of the SFPD Office of Public Affairs and the men and women of the SFPD who protect and serve you. For information call the office at (415) 553-1651, or Ron at (415) 776-9399. The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.

Manslaughter charge upped in Martin case

by Katie Szymanski

Revising an earlier plan to charge the driver of a vehicle that ran over and killed gay biker Franco Martin with vehicular manslaughter, the San Francisco District Attorney's office plans to charge Jibao Washington, 22, with second degree murder, according to investigator Ron Huberman.

Washington was arrested and charged with nine counts, including driving a stolen vehicle, evading police, and causing serious injury, after a police chase on July 12 along Bayshore Boulevard. During the chase, Washington's car allegedly hit Martin's motorcycle, which witnesses said flew up and hit the top of the underpass. Washington then allegedly ran over Martin a second time in an attempt to flee police. Martin, 44, lived for 51 days, but died on August 29 from internal injuries caused by the second impact.

After hearing of the vehicular manslaughter charges, Martin's surviving lover Dick Manning and friend Harlow Griffith began a letter-writing and e-mail campaign to the district attorney's office and state and city officials to push for murder charges.

"Washington made a conscious decision to run over Franco a second time," Manning told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "And it was that decision that caused Franco's death."

Huberman told the *B.A.R.* that more serious charges were decided when Al Giannini, the new assistant district attorney assigned to the case, determined that there was enough evidence to prove second degree murder. The new charges are expected to be filed on October 8 in San Francisco Superior Court. ▼

Mora trial

◀ page 1

his eyes, because she had read somewhere that it calms drunk people. She then noticed his hand was bleeding. Dunlap used this theatrical scenario to emphasize that Mora's hand injuries came not from assaulting Wilmes, but from punching the wall in his home. Again he stressed that Mora's anger that evening came from losing his children, not hating gay people.

What was missing from the prosecution's questions was the emphasis on the word "faggot," and whether Mora had ever casually used the word, whether in jest or anger. Following a week where Mora's alleged utterance of "faggot" was hotly contested, perhaps prosecutor Murlene Randle decided to redirect her approach. Unfortunately, asking witnesses whether Mora has a problem with gays does not recognize the fact that many people who truly believe they are not homophobic frequently use the word "faggot" as a derogatory statement.

The trial, as usual, played to a courtroom packed with Mora's family and friends. ▼

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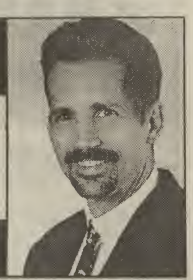
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Castro tenants protest eviction, picket store

by Terry Beswick



Jane Philomen Cleland

Residents facing eviction from an apartment building owned by In-jean-ious owner William Tull picketed outside his Castro store Friday, Sept. 10.

Several longtime tenants of a three-unit wooden apartment building on Douglass Street in the Castro filed suit against their landlord in San Francisco Superior Court on September 9, claiming wrongful eviction.

Attempting to galvanize public pressure on their landlord, William Tull, the tenants and their attorney, Philip S. Horne, also began staging demonstrations on Friday, September 10, at one of Tull's businesses, In-jean-ious, a small clothing store on Castro Street. They also called for a boycott of the store.

Under the Ellis Act, California landlords are permitted to evict their tenants from their rental property, provided they plan to sell the building or use it for their own purposes. Whether sold or not, the owner of the Douglass Street building would not be permitted to rent out the units for a period of 10 years.

Tull gave his tenants 60-day notices on July 16. They are not required to pay rent during that period. Moreover, while the lawsuit is pending, which could drag on for months, they are refusing to vacate, and the landlord will not be able to collect rent, as he has technically taken the units off the rental market.

In their suit, the six tenants – Gerard Donelan, Christopher McKenna, Thomas Hinton, Stephen Nelson, Joe Miller, and Joseph Galaz – are alleging that Tull is evicting them in simple retaliation for a series of complaints going back several years about a leaky roof, a crumbling exterior staircase, and other problems. After the city Building Inspector's office ordered repairs to the roof in 1996, according to the suit, the landlord "initiated a campaign of verbal harassment and retaliation in the form of refusing to make other necessary repairs and refusing to maintain the building." The repairs, however, were eventually made. If the plaintiffs' attorneys can prove the evictions are retaliatory or discriminatory, they may be able to permanently stop the evictions in court.

The tenants' suit also claims that Tull "does not really intend to get out of the lucrative San Francisco rental market," and plans to merely rent the units out at higher rates, a plan that would not be permitted under the Ellis Act.

Tommi Avicolli Mecca, organizer for the newly formed Castro Tenants Union (CTU), participated in the September 10 demonstration outside In-jean-ious and told the *Bay Area Reporter* that his group will discuss the evictions with the tenants at a meeting this Monday, September 27.

"My concern is we have tenants being replaced by much higher income tenants," Avicolli Mecca said. "And this contributes to the yuppification and gentrifi-

page 31 ▶

Gomez, Allison to address CUAV event

by Katie Szymanski

Authors Jewelle Gomez and Dorothy Allison will be the keynote speakers at a reception and buffet to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Community United Against Violence (CUAV) this Tuesday, September 28. The event, entitled "Voices in the Upsurge: Rising Up Against Violence," begins at 6 p.m. at the SOMA Arts Gallery and Cultural Center, at 934 Brannan Street. CUAV provides services targeted to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community around anti-gay violence and same-sex domestic violence.

Tuesday's event will also feature poetry by local youth, a DJ spinning world beats, and awards given to anti-violence advocates and survivors of anti-LGBT violence. A $50 donation is suggested, but nobody will be turned away for a lack of funds. For more information, call (415) 777-5500. CUAV's 24-hour crisis line is (415) 333-HELP. ▼

Correction, clarification

In the September 16 Crime and Punishment column, it was incorrectly reported that people could be arrested on loitering charges for acting suspicious on streets known for prostitution. In fact, police are not concerned with people walking or socializing on Polk Street. The person engaged in unlawful activity to include prostitution or soliciting the services of a prostitute is subject to police attention.

In the September 16 issue, a photo caption on page 19 about Ed Decker receiving a Stop AIDS Project HIV Prevention Award should have mentioned that UCSF professor Ron Stall and Blackberri, an outreach worker at the Glide-Goodlett HIV/AIDS Project, were also recognized with awards.

We apologize for the errors. ▼

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from the Executive Board of the

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LESBIAN & GAY DEMOCRATIC CLUB



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The Clint Reilly for Mayor campaign has decided that attacking the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club is the best way to win your vote. And going beyond a desperate attempt to discredit the nation's first and San Francisco's largest lesbian/gay political club, they're taking the lowest road by resorting to tasteless personal attacks and mean-spirited diatribes against individuals in our club.

Clint Reilly clearly has nothing important to say about issues that affect our community, and that leaves no doubt in our minds that we made the right decision in supporting the re-election of Mayor Willie Brown.

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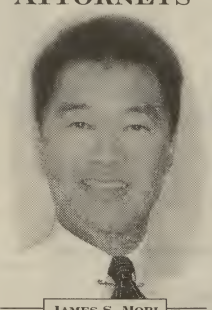
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Bodfish murder stymies police

by Ed Walsh

In my 14 years in law enforcement, this is the most unique murder case I've ever seen," said Orinda police Sergeant Chris Wenzel, more than two and a half months after the murder of 56-year-old transgendered Orinda resident Emmon Bodfish continues to baffle police.

"There's no obvious motive in this case," added Wenzel, "and there have been so many twists and turns."

Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department homicide investigator Mark Hale calls the Bodfish case "a classic whodunit" because, he says, they can't find anyone that would have a motive to kill Bodfish. Hale agrees with Wenzel's assessment of the case, telling the *Bay Area Reporter* that the Bodfish case was also the most unusual murder case he has ever investigated.

"The investigation continues to progress but is moving slowly," said Wenzel. "There is some evidence that we're waiting to get confirmation on."

Police say they still don't consider Bodfish's son, Max Wills, a suspect in his mother's bludgeoning death nor can they rule him out because investigators can't account for all of his time while he was vacationing in Southern California. Wills, 33, killed himself in a Santa Monica hotel room just hours after his grandmother told him his mother was dead.

The *B.A.R.* has obtained a copy of Wills's coroner's report that lists Dr. Richard Levine as Wills's psychiatrist. Levine didn't know Wills was dead until he was told by the *B.A.R.*

Levine said he had heard vaguely about the Bodfish case in the media but didn't know there was any connection to Wills.

Levine said he had last counseled Wills about a year ago. Levine said that it is "inconceivable" to him that Wills could have killed his mother. Levine added that he met Wills's mother "once or twice" and Bodfish presented himself to Levine as a woman.

The coroner's report lists three vials of prescription drugs that had been found near Wills's body that had been prescribed by Levine. Two were sleeping pills and the third was the antidepressant drug Alprazolam which is often prescribed when depression is accompanied by anxiety. A fourth drug vial containing the painkiller Nupercainal, was also found near Wills's body but the report listed no prescribing doctor for that medication.

The report includes results of the toxicology tests that show that no alcohol or narcotics were present in Wills's body at the time of his death. Unlike Bodfish's coroner's report, Wills's report lists no analyses of his stomach's contents so it's impossible to estimate how soon he took the prescription drugs before cutting himself, or whether he took the drugs at all. Wills's cause of death is listed as "exsanguination," the forensic term used to describe a death caused by being drained of blood.

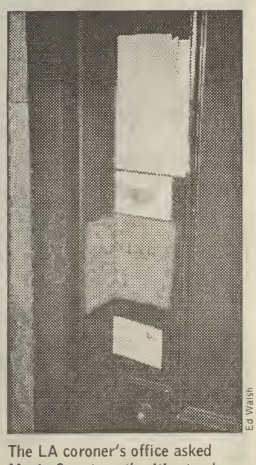
The report diagrams the self-inflicted cuts to Wills's throat and arms. His body, the report says, was found nude and in the fetal position.

"The decedent is observed lying on his left side in the bathtub submerged in water," the report details. "Blood and vomitus are observed in the water. Blood splatters cover the bathroom floor and sink, and a single edge razor is noted in the blood stained sink. Several empty prescribed medication bottles are observed in the wastebasket. A four-page suicide note is left by the decedent."

Previously, authorities had said Wills left a three-page suicide note. Police still aren't revealing the note's contents but investigators had told the *B.A.R.* that Wills mentioned his mother in the note.

The coroner's report, which was prepared by the Los Angeles County Coroner's office, predictably makes no mention of the controversy over that agency's handling of the case. The report says that Wills's father, Burl Willes, lives in "Berkely" (sic) and that the Berkeley Police Department was asked to notify Willes of his son's death. The report does not say why Willes wasn't notified of his son's death until a week after the suicide and a day after Wills's suicide had already been reported in the Bay Area media.

Orinda police first learned of Wills's death from this reporter on July 6, five days after Wills's body was discovered. The *B.A.R.* confirmed the suicide late on July 5 after observing a coroner's seal on Wills's Marin City townhouse.



Ed Walsh

The LA coroner's office asked Marin County authorities to place this coroner's seal on the door of Max Wills's townhouse.

The Los Angeles County Coroner's office asked the Marin County Coroner's office to place the seal on Wills's door as a matter of routine on July 2. The seal had to be sandwiched between reporters' notes. Marin County Assistant Coroner, Gary Tindel, told the *B.A.R.* that his office was never told by the Los Angeles County Coroner's office that it was having difficulty notifying Wills's next of kin. Tindel added that the Los Angeles coroner's office never asked his agency to contact Wills's neighbors in an attempt to locate relatives nor was it asked to be alert for any obvious clues that could lead them to relatives, e.g., notes from reporters.

Wills's friends and neighbors have been very critical over the Los Angeles coroner's handling of the case. "It was unconscionable," said neighbor Pat Ross. "They just slapped the seal on the door and didn't try to make any connection." Ross added that Wills's neighbors had already been questioned by Orinda investigators when the seal was put on the door.

From the start of their investigation, Orinda police had searched for Wills for questioning in connection with his mother's murder. Ross said any of the neighbors could have easily alerted investigators immediately if they had simply been contacted when the seal was put on the door.

How much longer Wills's body would have been kept in storage in Los Angeles before authorities there would have made a more aggressive effort to locate relatives is a question that may remain shrouded in bureaucratic mystery long after the Bodfish murder case is solved. ▼

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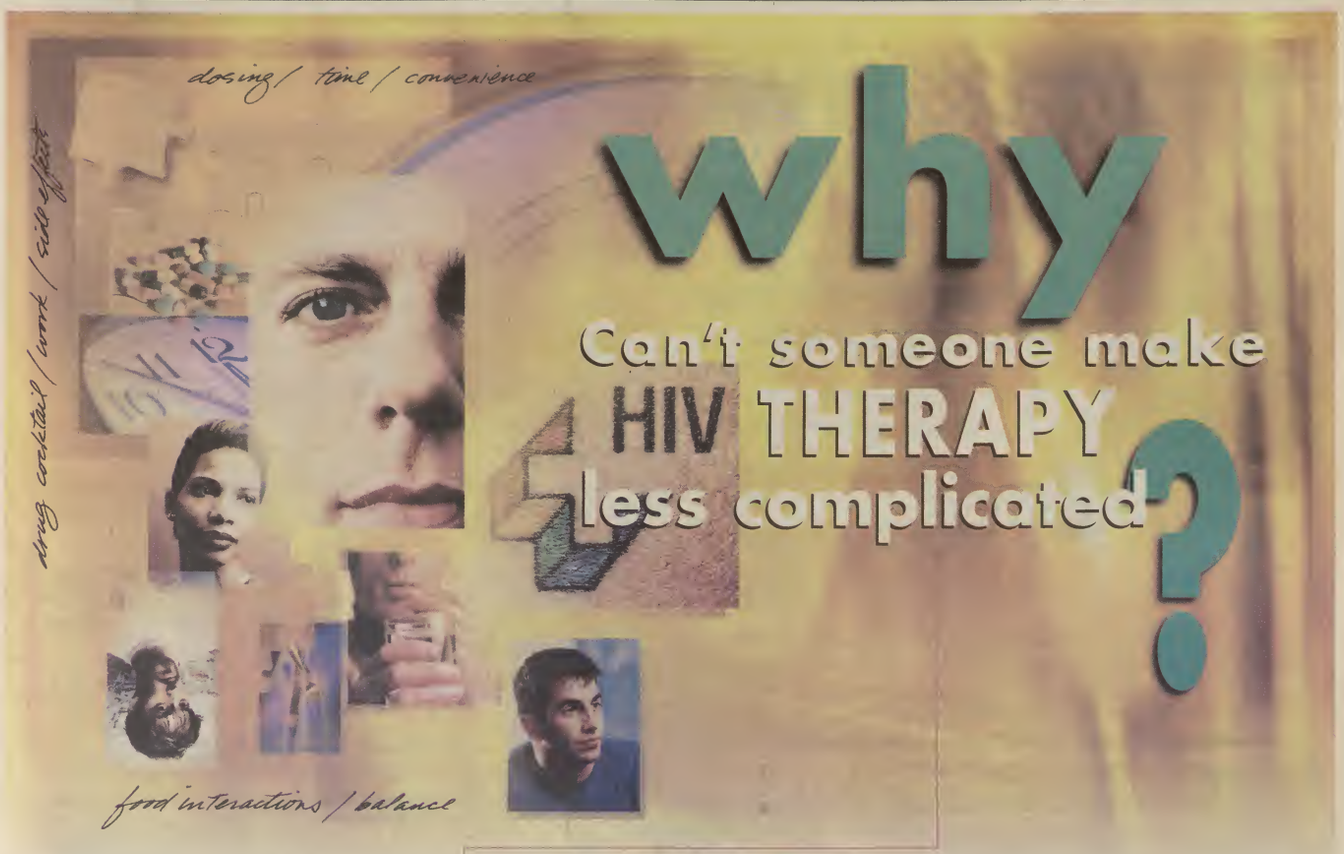
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Pregnancy should be avoided in women receiving SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in primates dosed with SUSTIVA. Barrier contraception should always be used in combination with other methods of contraception.

Talk to your doctor when you start taking SUSTIVA. SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Always tell your doctor if you are taking, starting or changing any prescription or non-prescription medicine when taking SUSTIVA. Your doctor may change your medicines or change their dose. You should discuss your prior medical conditions (such as mental illness, substance abuse, hepatitis, etc.) with your doctor before taking SUSTIVA.

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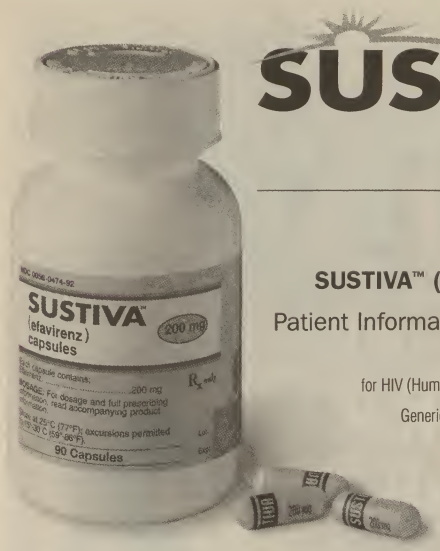
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1. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV infection. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), December 1998.

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Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz)
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. Rarely, patients have more serious side effects that may affect mood or ability to think clearly. These side effects occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness or substance abuse. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:**

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:**

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

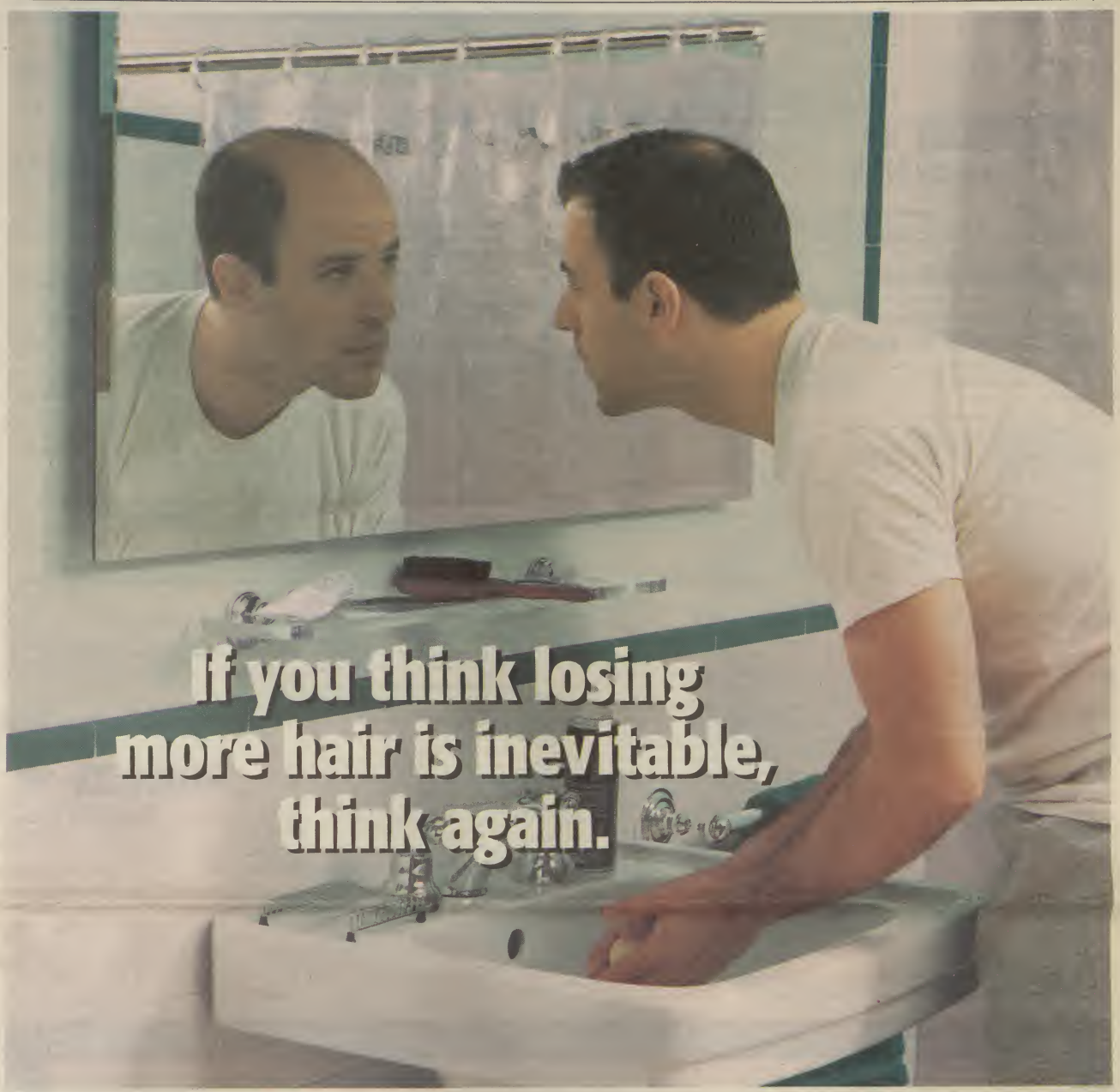
How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at http://www.sustiva.com.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

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Wilmington, DE 19880
Issued September, 1998



The first and only pill clinically proven to treat hair loss in men.

PROPECIA is a medical breakthrough – the first pill that effectively treats male pattern hair loss on the vertex (at top of head) and anterior mid-scalp area.

By all measures, the clinical results of PROPECIA in men are impressive:*

- 83% maintained their hair based on hair count (vs. 28% with placebo).
- 66% had visible regrowth as rated by independent dermatologists (vs. 7% with placebo).
- 80% were rated as improved by clinical doctors (vs. 47% with placebo).
- Most men reported an increase in the amount of hair, a decrease in hair loss, and improvement in appearance.

*Based on vertex studies at 24 months of men 18 to 41 with mild to moderate hair loss.

Scientists have recently discovered that men with male pattern hair loss have an increased level of DHT in their scalps. PROPECIA blocks the formation of DHT and, in this way, appears to interrupt a key factor in the development of inherited male pattern hair loss in men. Importantly, PROPECIA helps grow natural hair – not just "peach fuzz" – and is as convenient to take as a vitamin: one pill a day.

Only a doctor can determine if PROPECIA is right for you. PROPECIA is for **men only.** Further, women who are or may potentially be pregnant must not use PROPECIA and should not handle crushed or broken tablets because of the risk of a specific kind of birth defect. (See accompanying Patient Product Information for details.) PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more to see visible results. PROPECIA may not regrow all your hair. And if you stop using this product, you will gradually lose the hair you have gained. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works for recession at the temporal areas. If you haven't seen results after 12 months of using PROPECIA, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit.

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. A very small number of men experienced certain side effects, such as less desire for sex, difficulty in achieving an erection, and a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects were reversible and went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA.

So start talking to your doctor. And stop thinking further hair loss is inevitable.

CALL **1-888-806-3725** or visit our website at www.propecia.com today to receive detailed product information, including clinical "before and after" photographs.

Please read the next page for additional information about PROPECIA.

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Propecia™ * (Finasteride) Tablets

Patient Information about PROPECIA*

(Pro-pee-sha)
Generic name: finasteride (fin-AS-tur-eyed)

PROPECIA is for use by MEN ONLY.**

Please read this information before you start taking PROPECIA. Also, read the information included with PROPECIA each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss PROPECIA when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups.

What is PROPECIA used for?

PROPECIA is used for the treatment of male pattern hair loss on the vertex and the anterior mid-scalp area.

PROPECIA is for use by **MEN ONLY** and should **NOT** be used by women or children.

What is male pattern hair loss?

Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this results in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head. These changes typically begin gradually in men in their 20s.

Doctors believe male pattern hair loss is due to heredity and is dependent on hormonal effects. Doctors refer to this type of hair loss as androgenetic alopecia.

Results of clinical studies:

For 12 months, doctors studied over 1800 men aged 18 to 41 with mild to moderate amounts of ongoing hair loss. A ll men, whether receiving PROPECIA or placebo (a pill containing no medication) were given a medicated shampoo (Neutrogena T/Gel**** Shampoo). Of these men, approximately 1200 with hair loss at the top of the head were studied for an additional 12 months. In general, men who took PROPECIA maintained or increased the number of visible scalp hairs and noticed improvement in their hair in the first year, with the effect maintained in the second year. Hair counts in men who did not take PROPECIA continued to decrease.

In one study, patients were questioned on the growth of body hair. PROPECIA did not appear to affect hair in places other than the scalp.

Will PROPECIA work for me?

For most men, PROPECIA increases the number of scalp hairs, helping to fill in thin or balding areas of the scalp. Men taking PROPECIA noted a slowing of hair loss during two years of use. Although results will vary, generally you will not be able to grow back all of the hair you have lost. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works in the treatment of receding hairline in the temporal area on both sides of the head.

Male pattern hair loss occurs gradually over time. On average, healthy hair grows only about half an inch each month. Therefore, it will take time to see any effect.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more before you see a benefit from taking PROPECIA. PROPECIA can only work over the long term if you continue taking it. If the drug has not worked for you in twelve months, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit. If you stop taking PROPECIA, you will likely lose the hair you have gained within 12 months of stopping treatment. You should discuss this with your doctor.

How should I take PROPECIA?

Follow your doctor's instructions.

- Take one tablet by mouth each day.
- You may take PROPECIA with or without food.
- If you forget to take PROPECIA, do not take an extra tablet. Just take the next tablet as usual.

PROPECIA will not work faster or better if you take it more than once a day.

Who should NOT take PROPECIA?

- PROPECIA is for the treatment of male pattern hair loss in **MEN ONLY** and should not be taken by women or children.
- Anyone allergic to any of the ingredients.

A warning about PROPECIA and pregnancy.

- **Women who are or may potentially be pregnant:**
  - **must not use PROPECIA**
  - **should not handle crushed or broken tablets of PROPECIA.**

If a woman who is pregnant with a male baby absorbs the active ingredient in PROPECIA, either by swallowing or through the skin, it may cause abnormalities of a male baby's sex organs. If a woman who is pregnant comes into contact with the active ingredient in PROPECIA, a doctor should be consulted. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

What are the possible side effects of PROPECIA?

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. In clinical studies, side effects from PROPECIA were uncommon and did not affect most men. A small number of men experienced certain sexual side effects. These men reported one or more of the following: less desire for sex; difficulty in achieving an erection; and, a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men who continued taking PROPECIA.

In general use, the following have been reported infrequently: allergic reactions including rash, itching, hives and swelling of the lips and face; problems with ejaculation; breast tenderness and enlargement; and testicular pain.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual side effects.

- **PROPECIA can affect a blood test called PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) for the screening of prostate cancer. If you have a PSA test done, you should tell your doctor that you are taking PROPECIA.**

Storage and handling

Keep PROPECIA in the original container and keep the container closed. Store it in a dry place at room temperature. **PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.**

Do not give your PROPECIA tablets to anyone else. It has been prescribed only for you.
Keep PROPECIA and all medications out of the reach of children.

THIS IS A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT PROPECIA. IF AFTER READING THIS SUMMARY YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE NOT SURE ABOUT ANYTHING, ASK YOUR DOCTOR.

1-800-830-7375, Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M. (ET).

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CAPE hires first executive director

Kay Ostberg likes to get things done

by Cynthia Laird

The California Alliance for Pride and Equality (CAPE), the state's new lobbying group for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community, has hired its first executive director. Openly lesbian Kay Ostberg took the challenge and since she started last week, has already gotten an idea of the work that needs to be done to strengthen the grassroots organization that formed last year after the demise of the Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality (LIFE).

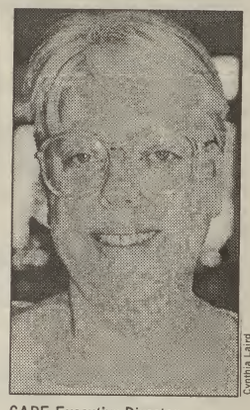
CAPE's board of directors met with Ostberg last Saturday, September 18, in Berkeley, where a number of issues were discussed, including supporting the No on Knight campaign to defeat the Knight initiative, which will be on the March 7, 2000 California ballot. The measure, authored by homophobic state Senator Pete Knight (R-Palmdale), states that only marriage between a man and a woman will be recognized in California.

Ostberg, who lives in Los Angeles with her partner and 9-year-old son, has been active in the LGBT and women's communities for years. Currently, she's finishing up some consulting projects, and will ease into her CAPE responsibilities.

Of her immediate tasks, Ostberg told the *Bay Area Reporter* that CAPE needs to raise money and increase its membership. While the board has been searching for an executive director for several months, Ostberg, who's currently a management consultant, said she's not surprised it took a while to hire an executive director and she doesn't think it was too long. CAPE has always had the goal of attracting more grassroots members and has lower membership fees than the LIFE Lobby had; the group is also focusing exclusively on LGBT human rights issues, as opposed to the LIFE Lobby that also dealt with HIV/AIDS measures.

"I'm very impressed with the board dynamics," Ostberg said after attending Saturday's daylong meeting. "For a grassroots board, they were very calm. It's going to be a great organization."

Ostberg will be traveling to the Bay Area and Sacramento regularly; she's already planning to attend the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's (NGLTF) 12th annual Creating Change Conference that takes place in Oakland in November.



Cynthia Laird

CAPE Executive Director Kay Ostberg

Progressive roots

She plans to draw on her experience as an executive director and deputy executive director, as well as other posts she's held over the years. Most recently, Ostberg served as executive director for the Ocean Park Community Center in Santa Monica. The $3.8 million community-based organization operates six programs providing emergency and transitional living shelters and supportive services for women and children fleeing domestic violence, as well as programs for homeless men, women, and children.

Before that, Ostberg served from 1993-1997 as deputy executive director for the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center, a job she found rewarding and which she will draw on in working to make CAPE a larger organization.

One of her accomplishments at the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center was the opening of a 2,000 square foot off-site drop-in center for high risk youth. Other projects completed during her tenure included opening the Audre Lorde Lesbian Health Clinic, a satellite HIV clinic, a youth HIV clinic, and acquisition and initial renovation of a 33,000 square foot building to house expanded community outreach and education programming.

"It was both wonderful and wearing," Ostberg said of her time at the center, which had an annual budget of $26 million and a staff of 240 when she was there. "You care and you want the environment to be inclusive and fair. We had diversity statements that were beautiful and we did have a diverse population."

Ostberg was also the national co-chair for the 1987 March on Washington (MOW) for Lesbian and Gay Rights. "At the march, I was introduced to incredible people from across the country," Ostberg told the *B.A.R.* in an interview last Sunday, September 19.

Attendance at that march was estimated by Ostberg at 700,000. She pointed out that the 1987 MOW ended up with a budget surplus of around $70,000, which was distributed as seed money to about 40 organizations across the country. "What got me into the gay and lesbian movement was the March on Washington in 1987. I was elected national co-chair, handed a key, and told our bank account had $300," Ostberg said. Almost immediately, Ostberg got a pledge of financial help from NGLTF. Black and White Men Together was another early supporter, along with the National Organization for Women. "It taught me how important diversity of the community is," Ostberg said.

Ostberg has a law degree from George Washington University and did course work for a Ph.D. in philosophy. "It was too intangible for me," she said of her philosophy work. "I was very impacted by the civil rights and feminist movements of the 1960s and 1970s. I was raised in a very progressive household and I wanted, in some way, to see what I could do with that."

For her work with CAPE, Ostberg's salary will be $50,000 annually, but she plans on raising a substantial amount of money to hire other staff members and so that CAPE will become a force in Sacramento. CAPE has survived on $62,000 in its first year, Ostberg said, adding that all LGBT people should sign up to become members. "There is nobody's life who's not impacted. Skip a movie and send in $10. Take some of your stock earnings and contribute to the organization," she said. "The strength is in our numbers.

"I love the idea of being back in there with people who are totally committed to changing civil rights for our community," Ostberg said. "I want it to not be okay to treat people in a discriminatory fashion because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender." ▼

CAPE membership for individuals is $25 and $10 for low income. Organizational memberships start at $200. Contributions can be mailed to CAPE, P.O. Box 1172, Sacramento, CA 95812.

Gay and Catholic: San Jose workshop Sat.

by Terry Beswick

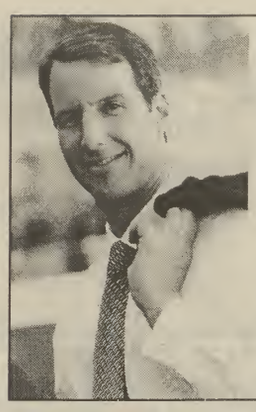
Dignity/San Jose hosts "Living Authentically in Collaboration with Conscience: A Holistic Paradigm for Catholic Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Persons," a one-day educational seminar this Saturday, September 25, at the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center at 175 Stockton Avenue in San Jose.

The Reverend Jack Bonsor, a priest and professor of theology at Santa Clara University, and Catholic layperson and Dignity/San Jose board member Bill Welch will lead a panel discussion, also featuring a Catholic lesbian, a Catholic gay man, and Catholic parents of a gay son.

According to organizers, panelists and participants will discuss "the traditional teachings of the Catholic Church and the contemporary debate surrounding human sexuality, particularly homosexuality," and will address "perceived barriers which may inhibit holistic, healthy and productive lives" and participation in the church.

A $20 per person registration fee for the event, which runs from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., includes lunch and an afternoon snack. ▼

To register, or for more information, call (408) 977-4218, or (408) 247-3405.



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The warrior's back in town

Leslie Feinberg to speak at Mumia Abu-Jamal rally

by Katie Szymanski

Renowned author, activist, and "transgender warrior" Leslie Feinberg will be the featured speaker at the Mumia Abu-Jamal "Rally for Justice" this Friday, September 24, an event that will address social and political injustices across the board, including the rise in racist and homophobic attacks around the country. The rally takes place at the Mission Cultural Center in San Francisco and will focus on how Abu-Jamal, an African American journalist on death row, symbolizes all struggles for equality, according to Feinberg.

Abu-Jamal was sentenced to death in 1982 for the alleged murder of a Philadelphia police officer. Authorities have continuously refused to hear new evidence that suggests his innocence, and within the last couple of years, Abu-Jamal's case has sparked rallies and demonstrations nationwide. Like many of his supporters, Feinberg believes that institutionalized racism played a major role in Abu-Jamal's sentencing and treatment, and said one key point she will make at Friday's rally is that "Mumia is all of us."

"It's not that we all face the same degrees of oppression or discrimination," Feinberg told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "But we are up against the same forces – those who block our paths and devalue our lives."

Abu-Jamal himself wrote and released a statement from prison this month denouncing anti-gay violence, calling anti-gay attacks "a reflection of the sickness that simmers at the core of the American soul."

"This violence, which seems psychosexual in nature, is an attack on the self, that seeks to destroy a part of the self that threatens the self," the statement said. "From Matthew Shepard, to Alabama, to Richmond, violence spawned by the dark pit of hatred and fear is unleashed by men who claim a false and twisted 'purity.'"



Jane Philomen Cleland

Bay Area supporters of Mumia Abu-Jamal took part in an April rally; another one takes place this Saturday, September 25.

Feinberg, who called Abu-Jamal's statement, "moving," is a longtime political prisoner advocate and has spoken and written about Abu-Jamal's case for years. In 1995, when a death warrant was issued for Abu-Jamal, Feinberg helped to organize a10,000-person march in Philadelphia that effectively stayed the hand of the state.

"Many people who took part in that historic march were impressed with what a strong, proud, visible presence the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans communities had as a contingent," said Feinberg.

From that strong presence came "Rainbow Flags for Mumia," a grassroots LGBT activists' network that Feinberg helped to establish last year. The group unites campuses and communities in support of Abu-Jamal, and is co-sponsor, along with the National People's Campaign, of Friday's rally.

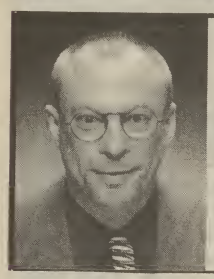
In addition to Feinberg, the rally will feature Gloria La Riva of the National People's Campaign, prisoners' rights activist Dorsey Nunn, spoken word artist Jimmy Salcedo, and musicians Babatunde Lea and Friends.

Feinberg will make an additional appearance this Saturday, September 25, from 2-5 p.m. at Uncle Bert's bar, 4086 18th Street, near Castro Street. Guests can meet the author, buy books and have them autographed, and hear Feinberg speak about her work in movements for social justice and equality.

Feinberg said that the Mumia movement in particular has given her hope for a unified coalition against brutality and injustice everywhere.

"When I look around at who is doing the grassroots organizing for Mumia and who is coming to the demonstrations, I catch a glimpse of the kind of movement we are building," Feinberg told the *B.A.R.* "And it has the potential to be able to bring about genuinely revolutionary change." ▼

The Rally for Justice for Mumia Abu-Jamal starts at 7 p.m. at the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, 2868 Mission Street, San Francisco. Admission is sliding scale, $5-$20. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.


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Today is 'Celebrate Bisexuality Day'

by Liz Highleyman

A group of activists affiliated with the national bisexual advocacy group BiNet USA has declared September 23 (today) "Celebrate Bisexuality Day" (CBD), and hopes that the celebration will become an annual event. According to CBD organizers, the goal of the day is to encourage "bisexuals, their families, friends, and allies to recognize and celebrate bisexuality, bisexual history, culture, and community, and the bisexual people in their lives."

CBD organizers want to challenge the idea that people can be easily defined based on the gender of their current partner. "Like most people," says CBD cofounder Gigi Raven Wilbur, "I too have been conditioned by society to automatically label a couple walking hand in hand as either straight or gay, depending upon the perceived gender of each person." Wilbur continued, "Ever since the Stonewall rebellion, the gay and lesbian community has grown in strength and visibility. The bisexual community also has grown in strength, but in many ways we are still invisible."

Much of the initial planning for CBD has taken place over the Internet, which has been a site of active bisexual organizing for a decade. CBD events are being planned for many cities and towns in the U.S., including Boston, New Orleans, Albuquerque, Washington, D.C., and Montpelier, Vermont, and in several countries including Australia, Canada, Japan, and Sweden. Events range from discussion groups to bookstore displays to dance parties to informal social gatherings.

CBD organizers encourage bisexual people and their allies in the queer and heterosexual communities to wear bisexual visibility apparel, write about bisexual people and events in their newsletters, issue press releases highlighting how their organization supports bisexual people, and talk about bisexuality with their friends. Wilbur said September 23 does not have any special bisexual significance, but that the autumnal equinox is a pagan day of calling, and it seemed an appropriate day to call on bisexuals and their allies to celebrate.

Just in time for Celebrate Bisexuality Day, a new bisexual flag featuring pink, purple, and blue stripes has been unveiled, and joins the double-triangle "biangles" as a symbol of bi pride and community. Designers of the new flag say that – just as the gays and lesbians use both the pink triangle and the rainbow flag – the bi community can use the new banner for a variety of purposes. CBD organizers report that the new flag will be flown at the site of the International Gay and Lesbian Association (IGLA) World Conference taking place this week in Johannesburg, South Africa.

In related news, September 1 marked the widespread launch of a new national bisexual organization, the second after BiNet USA. Dubbed Bi Without Borders, the new group is a "trans-positive, multiracial, progressive national/international group committed to serving bisexuals, bisensual people, two-spirited people, and their friends and families from all walks of life. The group currently has members from around the U.S., Australia (which has a large and active bi community), and other countries. Projects of Bi Without Borders include a travel network; an action alert network called Transpeople, Others, and Omnipresent Bisexuals Allied Against Defamation (TOO BAD) devoted to countering prejudice against bisexuals in legislation, media, and religious settings; a "bi starter pack" with a selection of materials for newly self-identified

page **30** ▶

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DC voters support medical marijuana

by Bob Roehr

This just in, 69 percent of voters in the District of Columbia supported a medical marijuana initiative on the ballot in the general election last November. No, the 10-month delay in counting the votes was not due to ineptness, but rather the meddling of Congress. It was undone only when a federal judge ordered that democracy prevail.

ACT UP/D.C. members Wayne Turner and the late Steve Michael organized what became Initiative 59 to decriminalize and regulate medical use of marijuana in the District of Columbia.

Last October, with less than two weeks before the election, Congressman Bob Barr (R-Georgia) proposed an amendment to an appropriations bill, which passed Congress without debate and on a voice vote. It prevented the local board of elections from spending money on the initiative. The ballot was already printed, so the practical effect of the amendment was to prevent counting the citizens' votes on the issue.

Initiative supporters, led by Turner and the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), sued in U.S. District Court. At the December 18 hearing, the Clinton administration, in the form of Justice Department attorney David Anderson, defended the Barr amendment. Congress "is the supreme political authority in the District of Columbia," he said. It simply "asserted its superior legislative power."

Most observers expected a decision in a matter of weeks. But Judge Richard Roberts's ruling only came last Friday, September 17, when he wrote: "Keeping a veil over the results of a properly conducted referendum would cut short public expression about the topic of drug legalization – either pro, con, or neutral."

"I've never won a court case before," said Turner with glee. Mayor Anthony Williams hailed the decision as "a clear and decisive win for self-government in the District of Columbia."

On Monday morning, September 20, the D.C. Board of Elections flipped a switch and election results on the referendum came tumbling out. It was as exit polling had predicted, 69 percent of the city's voters supported compassionate use of the medicinal herb.

The mayor and control board are expected to sign the measure. It then faces a 30-day review period during which Congress can veto the referendum results.

That seems likely to be the case, the will of the people will never be implemented. On the day prior to the release of Roberts's opinion, the Senate approved a D.C. budget bill that precluded certain local activity. It banned public funding of needle exchange programs to stem the spread of HIV and the use of marijuana for medical purposes. Some are urging President Clinton to veto the bill because of these amendments.

"These results may be thwarted by Congress, but at least the will of the people is known – and it is an overwhelming mandate for compassion and protection of the doctor-patient relationship," said Rick Rosendall with the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance. ▼

Thieves grab legal pot in Guerneville

by Lois Pearlman

It looked like just another harvest season pot bust when police swooped down on a small garden off Highway 116 in Guerneville last Saturday morning, but the officers were on a very different kind of mission.

On September 18, at about 6:30 am, Sonoma County Sheriff's Department deputies responded to a report of armed robbery of pot plants at the home of two legally approved medical marijuana growers.

It was exactly a year and a day after the couple, Laurie Converse and William McConnell, had been arrested by the same sheriff's department for growing marijuana. But that was before the county had an official registry for approved users in place.

They grow the pot for their own use and for two other approved patients.

Converse, a mother of two, suffers from degenerative disc disease and McConnell has digestive system problems. Once they were able to receive official approval through the Sonoma County Medical Association, their cases were dropped.

Now on this chilly Saturday morning, one year later, two men had slipped into the little garden bordered by blackberries and wire fencing, and chopped down several plants. The only thing that stopped them from making a clear getaway was the couple's goose, who spotted the thieves and squealed an alarm.

According to McConnell, who had been sleeping in the garden to protect the plants, he banged a home-made gong to alert the neighbors, and jumped one of the men as he attempted to flee with the plants. When Converse came running from the house with her kids and rottweilers, the other man pulled a knife on her and tossed a smoke grenade.

The couple let the robbers go, but not before their rottweiler, Rocky, bit a few chunks out of one of them, Converse said. One of the children apparently got a good look at the man who held the knife.

The suspects ran into the hills, dropping all but three or four of the plants along the way. They also left behind clippers and hats, according to police.

Referring to the theft, Doc Knapp, a member of the Sonoma Alliance for Medical Marijuana from Sebastopol, said, "This illustrates the need for a more secure way to grow."

Knapp, along with other medical marijuana advocates, has been participating in ongoing discussions with Sonoma County District Attorney Mike Mullins. One thing they are promoting is a central garden site where marijuana could be grown for everybody who has county approval. The idea is based on a similar cooperative garden in Santa Cruz County, which is located at a secure site known only to the handful of medical marijuana users who maintain it.

"There's got to be a couple hundred patients [who use medical marijuana with approval] in the county and more all the time," Knapp said.

In a telephone interview, Mullins agreed that he is open to the idea of a coop garden. "I'm waiting for a concrete plan," he said.

Meanwhile, police are looking for the suspects, who face a variety of felony charges. ▼



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Society of Janus turns 25

Weekend of festivities marks SM group's anniversary

by Katie Szymanski

A quarter of a century ago, a woman by the name of Cynthia Slater decided that the San Francisco leather scene was missing two things: women, for one, as well as a support network for all people who wanted to learn and practice safe SM.

The second part was easy. Slater formed the Society of Janus, which began holding meetings and play parties with a mostly gay male membership (and Slater). The organization was named for the Roman god Janus, who, according to Slater, was symbolic in many ways to the group. Janus, said Slater, had two faces, which represents the duality of SM, the dominant and submissive personalities within each of us. Janus was also the god of beginnings and endings, which Slater interpreted to mean the beginning of one's acceptance of self, and the end of self loathing and fear over one's SM desires. Finally, Janus was also the god of war, the war in this case being the battle that those in the leather scene fight against stereotypes. It was Slater's goal to provide to San Francisco with what only one other group, The Eulenspiegel Society (TES) of New York, had accomplished: an open, honest, pansexual space to safely explore one's desires.

"For a long time, we were the only game in town," said Todd, the Society of Janus historian, who only wanted his first name used. "Janus really blazed the trail for a lot of other groups to follow."

The pansexual piece of Janus grew with time.

According to Todd, Slater further pursued her outreach to women in 1977, with a workshop and rap group created as a women's stepping stone into Janus. In the early 1980s Slater put together an ad that said, "Hey lady – take a dare," and posted it around the Bay Area. It wasn't until the late 1980s, however, that women made up a large percentage of the Janus membership.

Since then, the Society of Janus has set a nationwide example for what a pansexual leather organization should provide: twice monthly meetings with themes such as SM spirituality or hands-on technique development, play parties four times a year, and charity fundraisers such as the Top/Bottom/Switch Auction, and the Bondage Beauty Pageant. Although Slater unfortunately succumbed to AIDS in 1989, her legacy and message live on.

This weekend, Janus takes the best of its programs and rolls them into its 25th anniversary celebration to coincide with other various leather festivities at the Folsom Street Fair. Events will include opening ceremonies, performances, and parties, all to recognize what is the second oldest educational SM group in the country.

The weekend begins this Friday, September 24, with opening ceremonies featuring the "Mayor of Folsom Street" Alan Selby, delivering the keynote address. The ceremonies will then present a foot and fetish fashion show. On Saturday, the fun will continue, with a full day of programs. Workshop hosts include Fakir and Cleo Dubois, Wolf, Mistress Cybelle, NYSMA's Lolita and Threshold's Ms. Cynthia, all longtime SM community members who will teach everything from bondage to scrotal and labial inflation.

The Fetish and Fantasy Ball on Saturday night comes complete with announced introductions as guests enter down the grand staircase at the Ramada Hotel. Twenty-five percent of ticket sales will go to the AIDS Emergency Fund. Saturday is also host to an elaborate play party.

"If some people cannot get into one evening event, they will be guaranteed access to the other," promised Maryann Brown, co-director of Janus, who said she expects package ticket sales to soar this week. In honor of the celebration, according to Brown, member and non-member admission fees are the same.

Janus has 700 members, 500 of them right here in the Bay Area. Janus also has reciprocal agreements with other SM groups, which means that members of Janus, The Exiles, The 15 Association, Southern California's Threshold, New York's TES, and Phoenix's Apex can all get into each other's events at member rates. Potential members are encouraged to visit the Society of Janus website at www.soj.org and download an application. This weekend, members and non-members alike are welcome at the celebration. ▼

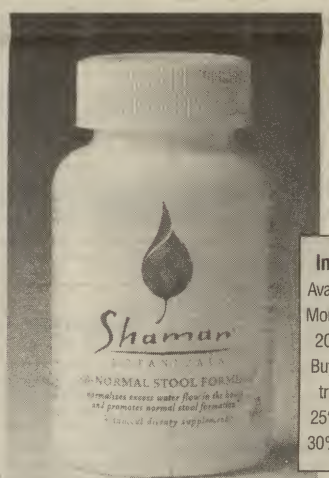
A $95 fee gets you into all the events on both Friday and Saturday. Tickets for just the evening events are $25, daytime events are $50. Call (415) 292-3222 for more information.



Rick Gerharter

Maryann Brown, co-director of the Society of Janus

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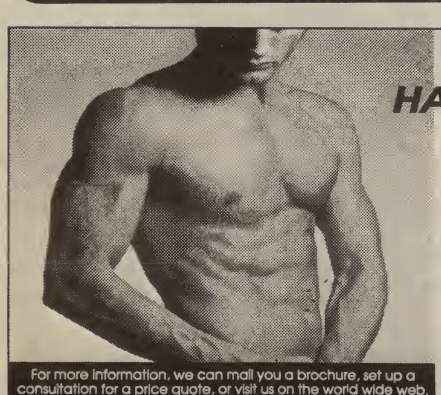
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CDC's new HIV test

by Liz Highleyman

At the first National HIV Prevention Conference held in Atlanta earlier this month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) unveiled a new testing strategy that it hopes will give a more complete picture of the HIV epidemic and will allow for better targeting of prevention initiatives to the populations most at risk.

The strategy, dubbed Serologic Testing Algorithm for Recent HIV Seroconversions, or STAHRS, uses a recently developed antibody test called the detuned ELISA. The modified assay was developed at San Francisco's Blood Centers of the Pacific (formerly Irwin Memorial Blood Bank) in collaboration with the CDC. The standard ELISA test can typically detect HIV antibodies in the blood after three to four weeks. The detuned ELISA, a less sensitive version of the test, cannot measure low levels of antibodies, and can only detect infection after about 120 days. Thus a person who tests HIV-positive using the standard ELISA, but HIV-negative using the detuned ELISA, was most likely infected within the past four months.

Prior to the development of the new test, researchers could only determine the total number of infections among people who were tested, which epidemiologists refer to as prevalence. The detuned ELISA provides information about the number of new infections, or incidence. In a mature epidemic – especially one with a long incubation period between infection and eventual illness – prevalence data is less useful than incidence data in predicting where and among whom new infections are occurring.

At the Atlanta conference, researchers reported the results of a study of 96,000 clients of sexually transmitted disease (STD) clinics in six U.S. cities. The results indicated that 8 percent of gay and bisexual men are infected with HIV per year, compared to .48 percent of heterosexual clients at the same clinics. According to CDC researcher Dr. Robert Janssen, "It's the first time we have had timely HIV incidence data on a broad scale. ... We can now better identify new epidemics while they are still just emerging, and intervene before infection spreads more broadly."

In 1997, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) requested that the city's HIV Prevention Planning Council allocate funding for a pilot study that would use the detuned ELISA to retrospectively test stored blood samples that had been collected in HIV serosurveys conducted between 1989 and 1996. At that time, the DPH's Sandy Schwarcz said that, "The ability to identify newly infected persons now opens the door to a wide range of previously unavailable prevention opportunities," and suggested that the detuned ELISA could help identify which populations are most at risk and which behaviors contribute most to new infections.

In September 1998, the city's HIV test sites began using the detuned ELISA; to date, several thousand individuals in the Bay Area have received the new test. According to Dr. Willi McFarland of the DPH, 20 percent of those who tested HIV-positive were in the first four months of infection. The "vast majority" of recently acquired HIV infections were seen in white gay or bisexual men in their 30s, especially gay and bi men who inject drugs. One new infection was detected in a heterosexual woman; none were seen in non-gay injection drug users.

At the Sixth Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections this past February, Dr. Michael Busch and colleagues from the Blood Centers of the Pacific reported the early results of a study that used the detuned ELISA to screen 5.2 million blood donors (including 1.8 million first-time donors) across the U.S. That study revealed that the rate of new HIV infections was greatest in the Southeast U.S. and among the poor and ethnic minorities. According to Busch, with the new test, "We can now, for the first time, measure the incidence of infection in a large population." McFarland said that the apparent discrepancy between the national and San Francisco results is not surprising, given that "San Francisco has a very different epidemic."

The detuned ELISA has elicited some controversy among those who fear it may be used to facilitate tracking of HIV infections. Public health officials hope that individuals will be more successful at remembering their sexual partners over a short, four-month interval. Contact tracing and partner notification are standard practice for STDs such as gonorrhea and syphilis, but are not used for HIV in California due to concerns about privacy and discouraging voluntary testing. Currently in California, only AIDS cases, not HIV infections, must be reported by name; the CDC has pressured states to begin reporting HIV infections as well, and many states already do so. A bill authored by Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) and recently passed by the California Legislature would implement a system of HIV reporting based on anonymous unique identifiers. The bill is awaiting approval by Governor Gray Davis.

Some are concerned that the availability of the detuned ELISA will encourage public health officials to institute mandatory contact tracing and partner notification, especially for the low-income and disenfranchised populations that are more likely to use public clinics. According to Michael Petrelis of the AIDS Accountability Project, "I want hard, independently verified figures on everything associated with this test. Until more honest numbers and science are produced, I don't trust those who advocate its development." ▼

Speier stonewalls on names reporting vote

by Terry Beswick

Despite repeated calls from AIDS activists and the *Bay Area Reporter* over the last two weeks, state Senator Jackie Speier (D-San Francisco/San Mateo), has refused to provide an explanation for her September 10 "no" vote on AB 103, a bill from Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) that would create a statewide confidential system for tracking new HIV cases, if signed by the governor. Speier is widely considered an ally on progressive AIDS as well as gay issues, making her vote all the more puzzling.

As reported in last week's *B.A.R.*, the alternative to the so-called "unique identifier" system created by the bill would be a non-confidential names reporting system, as is currently being implemented in New York state. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has mandated that states use one of the two systems for reporting and tracking new HIV cases.

"She always supported this bill, and she knew it was going to pass," offered John Schweizer, Speier's chief of staff. "It was a parliamentary issue. She has a long history of supporting the substance of the bill. It's difficult to talk about, [but] her vote was not a vote on the substance of the bill. Could she write a letter to the governor supporting it? It's not an unreasonable question, let me just ask her." Schweizer said that his staff has not worked with the governor's office on AB 103, and was unsure of whether the governor would sign or veto the bill.

Unconfirmed reports from a variety of Statehouse sources point to a disagreement between Migden and Speier possibly relating to Migden's holding up or delaying some of Speier's unrelated bills in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, which Migden chairs.



Jackie Speier

Asked about these reports, Schweizer would only venture, "To get into all the details would not be helpful."

Eileen Hansen, co-chair of the California Statewide Surveillance Coalition, a broad coalition of health and AIDS organizations lobbying for AB 103, said she has also been unable to get an explanation from Speier's office, and called on the senator to telephone the governor to show her support for the bill, and to provide an explanation for her vote to her constituents. ▼

Bill Thorne recalled as tenacious activist

by Jeff Getty

A memorial service was held Saturday, September 18, at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco for one of the city's most vital AIDS activists, William Thorne. Born in Quincy, Massachusetts on August 24,1963, Thorne led a shortened but extremely productive life as an AIDS and hepatitis activist, before he died of liver cancer and chronic hepatitis B on August 4.

At the service, an AIDS Hero Award plaque was presented by ACT UP/Golden Gate members to Armin Lindegger, Thorne's partner at the time of his death, and to Thorne's sister Alice Bennert.

Many who knew Thorne and his work noticed that he had a unique sense of community and caring. It was well known among his friends that any person, even a total stranger, who contacted Thorne for help, would receive assistance in abundance. His mother, Evelyn Thorne, said that he was always taking care of his friends and countless foster brothers and sisters as a child. "Sometimes he would bring home homeless people when he lived here in Quincy," she said. Evelyn Thorne had 22 foster children over the period of time that Bill lived at home. Even when she gave birth to Bill, she already had six foster children living with her. So, young Thorne always lived in an expanded family, and according to his mom, he had to learn how to get along with everyone. "A lot of these foster kids had problems. He helped work out the some of the kids' problems. Bill grew up with children from all races, and considered outsiders as family," she said.



Jane Philomen Cleland

ACT UP/Golden Gate member Bill Thorne was remembered at a memorial Saturday, September 18 at MCC-SF. ACT UP/Golden Gate members Matthew Sharp, far left, and Nadine Batya, right, presented an AIDS Hero Award to Thorne's sister, Alice Bennert, second from right, and brother-in-law.

She also remarked that when he later lived in San Francisco, he saw a woman who was homeless, and let her and her family live on his boat. "They sort of trashed the boat, but he would not have turned them away," she recalled.

Thorne grew up outside Boston, attending Quincy High School where he loved to participate in the school plays. "He was a dancer and singer in *Joe Business*, recalled his mother. After high school, Thorne attended college at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. John Birmingham, a longtime friend, first met Thorne at UMass in 1982. "Bill was an early activist on hep B vaccine work as far back as February 1983," recalled Birmingham. In his earliest activism, Thorne convinced the Merck, Sharpe, and Dohme drug companies to target new hepatitis B vaccines into the gay community.

"At the time, the drug companies were focusing on dental students and prison guards, ignoring the gay community," said Birmingham. In the early 1980s, Thorne and Birmingham put together hep B literature for outreach to the gay community. Some of the first pamphlets about hep B came from the San Francisco-based Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights. Thorne and Birmingham printed up at least 12,000 of these pamphlets and distributed them at every gay venue in Boston. According to Birmingham, they had a hard time persuading bar owners, and their managers, to allow the literature in the clubs and bars. They also published prominent news stories about hep B and vaccine research in the local gay press. It was believed that this early work helped to curb the hep B menace. Ironically, Thorne was screened for hep B in 1984, and discovered that he was infected as well.

In the early 1980s, Thorne educated himself about the newly emerging HIV virus. In 1987, he participated in his first ACT UP "die-in" at Massachusetts General Hospital to gain access for PCP treatments. "He was a member of ACT UP/Boston at the time. Bill was a brilliant person, and the best person I had ever worked with. Bill could always improve on an idea, negotiate and had strategies. He had a lot of creativity and ambition. And Bill was not intimidated by anyone," said Birmingham. "Back in the early 1980s, students at UMass thought AIDS wasn't their problem ... it was a New York thing. Bill had a hard time getting through to these students at the time. Some of the very people who told us AIDS wasn't our problem, began dying the next year." said a still amazed Birmingham.

What made Thorne become such a good activist? Birmingham pointed out that Thorne had read *Reveille for Radicals* by Saul Alinsky as a young man, and he thought that Alinsky taught Thorne how to frame issues and shake up the establishment. "Bill was willing to sit in any office until he got what he wanted. People who took Thorne seriously went on to become leaders in the

page 31 ▶

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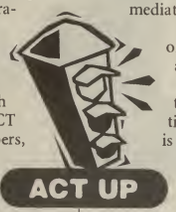
WOMEN AND MINORITIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

Coalition for Salvage Therapy

Getting AIDS drugs to patients on edge

by Jeff Getty, ACT UP/ Golden Gate Writers Pool

Since the first large-scale compassionate use programs of 1995 and 1996 for protease inhibitors and other new AIDS drugs, there has been a dramatic decline in the national death rate. History records that AIDS activists were largely responsible for changing drug approval policy in the U.S. – pushing new therapies through the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) quickly. Unfortunately for some patients, the new drugs came too late to help. Many people with AIDS were so sick and desperate that they could not wait to combine three new approved drugs (cocktail therapy) at a time. Instead patients had to add drugs frantically, bit-by-bit, as they became available through compassionate use. When new drugs are added as mono therapy, resistance can build quickly and the therapy can fail. In the end, some patients do not survive. Four such patients, who were ACT UP/Golden Gate members, passed away due to these circumstances in the last three years.



Over the last decade, several coalitions of activists pulled together at various times to form working groups to address the problems in the drug industry. There was a protease working group, a 1592 and Amprenavir coalition, and a human growth hormone national working assembly among others. But by early 1998, it was clear that there needed to be an ongoing coalition of AIDS activists and AIDS agency employees functioning together on a national level to expedite the availability of combinations of compassionate use AIDS drugs. There needed to be a regular meeting group to address constant inadequacies in drug access and safety for those at immediate risk of death.

Linda Grinberg is one of the founders and a leader of the most effective AIDS treatment access coalition around today. She is the Los Angeles-based organizer, communicator, strategist, and whip behind much of the work that comes from some 20 or 30 national activists. The Coalition for Salvage Therapy (CST) is unique in that it has no official funding or tax exemption. The CST exists to find access mechanisms for PWAs who need at least two or more new drugs they have never used before – two or more drugs coming into compassionate use programs at the same time. The task is nearly impossible. But the CST, whose members include co-founders Lynda Dee of AIDS Action Baltimore; Spenser Cox, of New York's TAG along with Carlton Hogan; AmFAR's Dave Gilden; Martin Delaney and Ben Cheng of Project Inform; Jules Levin of National AIDS Treatment Advocacy Project; HIVandHepatitis.Com's Ron Baker and many others who jump in from time to time, seem to be finding some solutions. "We have also had invaluable input from two HIV practitioners, who are also members of the coalition," said Grinberg.



The Coalition for Salvage Therapy's Linda Grinberg

How it started

The CST formalized around a consensus statement circulated in November 1998 by Cox to address problems with Abbott Pharmaceuticals' new protease, ABT-378. It was then that Grinberg, Dee, and Cox formed the coalition. "The work of the CST is just now the bearing fruit of our labors," said Grinberg. Grinberg mentioned that previous working groups had to keep reinventing themselves from the ground up. "We've needed an ongoing activist coalition, so that there is continuum, and our work is not piecemeal," she said. Grinberg pointed out that the coalition's politics are tough at times. "The CST tries to find real consensus in the group – to agree on things in a democratic way. Everyone is welcome in our group," she added.

Dee has her feelings about consensus in the group, "The most difficult aspect of instituting the Coalition for Salvage Therapy has been working with members of the community. There has been so much water under the bridge over the past 10 years, past resentments and hurt feelings. It is often hard for us to dismiss the past and now trust each other. Fortunately, we really are all on the same team. The more we work together, the more trust among is established," she said.

The main focus of the group is to provide compassionate and expanded drug access to late stage AIDS patients who have run out of options. One of this year's accomplishments was the creation of the new Abbott Protease ABT-378 Compassionate Access Program. It is now currently enrolling up to 350 patients. Another recent coup was the brokering of an agreement with Gilead Science to provide 300 patients with PMPA (a new nucleotide anti-HIV drug). The importance of this victory was that it might enable patients to get two new agents simultaneously. "The numbers of patients for the first phases of theses programs are small, but hopefully, our efforts will expedite a larger program next year," Dee said.

"I am pleased that we have been able to make a small step for patients who would not have been able to access these drugs until mid-2000, but clearly broader access is the main goal," added a modest Grinberg.

The main focus is to provide compassionate and expanded drug access to late stage AIDS patients who have run out of options.

POZ was not pos

Though well received, the CST has been the center of some controversy. *POZ* magazine's Mike Barr wrote a negative column about the CST's work earlier this year. Barr admonished the CST as something akin to a "drug du jour club". Barr was critical of CST's rush to get ABT-378 into patients' hands. TAG's Cox responded, "The criticism only looked at the coalition's opening salvo, since then we have shown that we are fighting to fundamentally change the way manufacturers test new drugs. It's not about just one drug, it's about finding effective treatments for people whose standard therapies have stopped working."

A lot of the group's work focuses on the development of late stage AIDS protocols (salvage protocols). "One of the biggest obstacles has been the reluctance of drug companies to collaborate on studies utilizing experimental agents still in development," said Grinberg. She mentioned that healthier studies (drug studies for healthier patients) are usually chosen to utilize the very latest drugs in early development. Late stage patients are often left out. "We have been able to facilitate collaborations between these companies – we are sort of playing matchmaker in a way, pressuring these companies to work together," she added.

Grinberg said the work is hard and has become a full-time job. While her health has been somewhat stable, she suffers from chronic AIDS symptoms and is often taxed by travel and meetings. People who work with Grinberg and the coalition are amazed at how much work gets done and how much energy people like Dee and Grinberg put in. "We worry about Linda's health a lot," said a close friend.

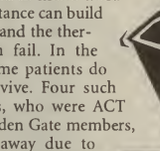
Why does she do it? "I don't feel like I have a free will, this is my destiny. I could never dream of walking away from this. Even if we can only prolong the life of one person, that to me is meaningful," Grinberg said. In such coalitions, egos and tempers flare. "We have managed to work through the bumps in the road," she said. It seems that both she and Dee have become very good at juggling the diverse personalities of the group.

The coalition has an e-mail address and can be contacted at CST@critpath.org. The group can also use small or large donations to help pay for numerous expensive conference calls. Many costs have been coming out of coalition members' pockets. People are encouraged to join the coalition and volunteer time. It seems likely that late stage AIDS patients who are anxiously awaiting new drugs could do a lot to help this group and themselves. ▼

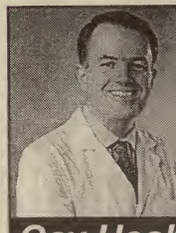
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OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Frederick R. "Eric" Passler II

October 5, 1964 — August 26, 1999

Eric Passler passed away on August 26, 1999 at his home in San Francisco, in the arms of his lover and partner Robert Snyder. Eric passed after a long and courageous battle with AIDS.

He left his native Atlanta, GA in



1990, making San Francisco his home. He loved the City and the natural beauty of his adopted state. After initially resuming his career in the furniture business, he attended the Fire Academy at the College of San Mateo and in 1994 joined the San Francisco Fire Dept. as a firefighter, holding that position up to the last months before his death.

Eric was very involved in San Francisco's leather community, winning the title of 1991 SF Leather Daddy's Boy. He worked in various charitable events, earning citations from both the AIDS Walk and the San Francisco Fire Dept.

His partner, Robert Snyder of San Francisco, his father, Thomas Passler, and sister, Lennie Passler, of Jonesboro, GA, as well as numerous family and friends survive him. A funeral service was held on August 30, 1999 at St. Monica's Catholic Church, conducted by his parish family from Our Lady of Fatima Byzantine Catholic Church.

David Donald Semrow

June 22, 1955 — July 12, 1999

David Donnald Semrow, born on June 22, 1955, passed away on July 12,



1999. Dave grew up in Coloma, Wisconsin. He graduated from Westfield High School before graduating from the Milwaukee School of Engineering in 1977.

After graduation, Dave worked in Chicago until moving to San Francisco in 1982. Dave worked as an engineer for Landis and Gyr for five years in Oakland before moving to Genentech in South San Francisco, where he worked until his death.

Dave is survived by his parents, Clarence and Mavis; brothers Ted of Saukville, WI; Tom of Coloma, WI; Dan of Westfield, WI; Mike of Snellville, GA; one sister, Debra Kazmer of Lawrenceville, GA; one sister-in-law, Donna of Coloma, WI; one brother-in-law, David Prahl, and his "wretched" cat Apollo (Dave's occasional proclamation). Dave was preceded in death by one brother, Terry of Coloma; and his life partner, Chris Prahl.

The remains were scattered at sea on July 22, 1999. A family memorial service was held on August 7 at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Coloma, WI. Donations in memory of Dave may be sent to the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Coloma, WI 54930.



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Bradley, Gore

◀ page 1

"We need to band together and fight together whenever people try to drive wedges between us and try to incite hatred of those who have a difference they fear," Gore said rhetorically to warm applause at Friday's ceremonial event.

Tracey Conaty, spokeswoman for the No on Knight campaign, said that the Gore campaign's statement of opposition to the marriage ban was significant in itself, adding, "We expect that in the coming months, the vice president is going to speak more directly about his opposition to the initiative."

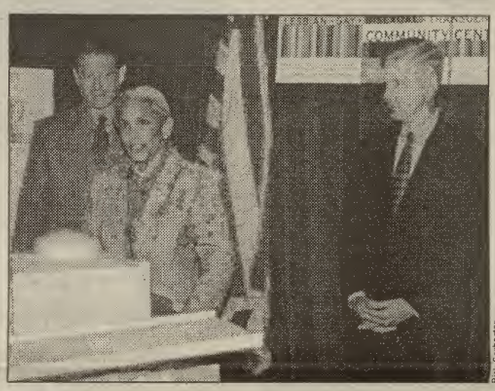
According to Evan Wolfson of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund's Marriage Project, the Supreme Courts of Hawaii and Vermont will likely rule on the legality of gay marriage "any day," and certainly prior to the March 2000 primary election.

Should one of the courts uphold the right of same-sex couples to marry under their state's constitution, California will be forced to recognize gay couples married in those states, and confer on them all the entitlements and responsibilities now available only to heterosexual couples. Thirty states – and the federal government – have already passed legislation banning gay marriage, though none by ballot measure.

Moreover, if polls continue to show that California voters support the hot-button Knight initiative, officially known as the Definition of Marriage Initiative, the willingness of leading politicians and other popular public figures to buck the polls and actively campaign against the gay marriage ban becomes increasingly significant.

"The only reason it's on the ballot now is because the Legislature has failed to act three times," said Rob Stutzman, campaign manager for the Knight initiative. "It was not our choice to time this with the presidential primary. It was necessitated by the litigation."

"We're surprised at this because these politicians are talking out of both sides of their mouths, given their previous support of DOMA (the 1996 federal Defense of Marriage Act), which did essentially the same thing," Stutzman said, commenting on the recent endorsements. "It's like saying I'm opposed to slavery, but emancipation proclamation would lead to racism."



Rick Gerharter

Pat Martel talks about the LGBT Community Center as Vice President Al Gore, left, and Governor Gray Davis, right, look on.

However, while Bradley did vote for DOMA as a senator from New Jersey – as did California Senator Dianne Feinstein, who announced her opposition to the Knight initiative through a spokesperson in a call to the *B.A.R.* on Tuesday, September 21 – Gore's campaign said that he opposed it, though apparently not strongly enough to persuade President Bill Clinton not to sign the bill, which banned federal recognition of gay marriage.

Both Stutzman and Mike Marshall, campaign manager for No on Knight, downplayed the significance of individual endorsements in swaying the voters' sentiments. "It doesn't have much effect unless it's collective," said Marshall.

"The issue is so simple, people aren't going to look at what the politicians are saying," said Stutzman.

Interestingly, both sides of the campaign, as well as Gore and Bradley, state repeatedly that the Knight initiative is "not about gay marriage."

"This is not anti-gay," said Stutzman. "It's just as much about polygamy as it is anti-gay. Gay is an orientation not a relationship." Stutzman's campaign is expected to continue hammering away at this theme: "This thing is skin-deep. It's very simple. It's about 14 words. This is about traditional marriage between a man and a woman."

"They very much don't want it to be about gay rights because Californians overwhelmingly support equal protections for gays," said Marshall. "That's sort of like arguing that segregation isn't about African American rights, it's about maintaining traditional institutions."

Asked to comment on the "polygamy" analogy, Marshall said, "That one stands on its own, without comment." The campaign for the Knight initiative is, incidentally, heavily funded by the Mormon Church.

Asked about the governor's failure to use the gay-friendly event – with Gore's previous statement providing political cover – to come out against the Knight initiative, Ammiano said, "I don't think he's setting the tone we would expect from a Democratic governor." Ammiano did not endorse Davis for governor last year, in part due to his stance on gay marriage.

"It's unfortunate that the governor hasn't taken the lead," commented Marshall. "If we have endorsements from Gore, and Bradley, and Boxer … and only the governor is dragging his heels, it will have more effect on him than on us."

"He is interested in ending wedge-issue politics," defended Davis's spokesperson Bustamante. "I think generally, the most important thing is to get people to talk about issues like this in an accurate way."

The question on many activists' minds is when – and with how much energy – politicians like Davis, Gore, and Feinstein, will campaign to defeat the so called "divisive, intrusive, and unfair" Knight initiative.

"The Knight initiative would mandate discrimination," warned Lambda's Wolfson. "It would literally tear apart lawful marriage when people cross the border." ▼

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Angel's in America

by Jim Provenzano

With so many natural disasters signifying ... nothing but natural disaster, it makes some wonder if Mother Earth isn't just trying to shake us off like head lice. It's very scary indeed, but even scarier when some people start babbling about it all meaning something pre-millennial. Sorry, but I don't think hurricanes really care what year it is.

The main reminder behind these calamities – aside from remembering that we live in an earthquake zone – is that the planet is a living organism that keeps upsetting our shoddily constructed buildings and our arrogance in thinking we rule the planet.

What more humbling way to give thanks for yet another non-Richter-scale-worthy weekend in the Bay Area than to hop a ferry to Angel Island – while it's still here, anyway.

Next Saturday, October 2, the 18th annual Angel Island LesBiGay Picnic promises another day of not-too-competitive sporting events, great food, and a chance to make some new friends as well as enjoy the scenery in a way tourists usually do while we locals keep forgetting how beautiful our fragile home is.

Team San Francisco and the San Francisco FrontRunners spokesperson Anne M. Ludwig calls it "a day of fun, food and hopefully some sun."

The day starts with an 8:30 a.m. ferry ride from San Francisco's Pier 41 on the Blue and Gold Fleet. The entire boat is reserved for those attending the LesBiGay Picnic. Later ferries are available for those who aren't morning types.

Once on the ferry docks at Angel Island, you can walk or ride your bike to the East Garrison Picnic Area where folks will gather for the potluck picnic, games, and socializing.

"Bicycles are welcome on the ferries," Ludwig noted. "And keep in mind that the East Garrison picnic site is about a mile and a half from the ferry landing."

Sports Complex

If you're a rep from one of our many LGBT team or individual sport social groups, here's a chance to snag some new members. All Bay Area gay and lesbian athletic organizations are invited to give a short talk about their clubs and to distribute brochures or information about upcoming events.

FrontRunners will lead a run around the island, Different Spokes will host a bike ride, and the Gay Sierrans will offer an Angelic hike, as well as, Ludwig quipped, "volleyball, softball, and my favorite – flirting!"

One of the more amusing activities from previous years were some innovative noncompetitive games that reminded me of summer camp, but with extra camp.



Jim Provenzano

Island-ish: Sunbathers and game players at last year's Angel Island LesBiGay Sports Picnic

This year's picnic will again be sponsored by Cobb Mountain Water, a gay-owned natural spring water company (no wonder it's so tasty!). Cobb Mountain has sponsored SF FrontRunners Pride Runs in previous years, as well as last summer's Rainbow Flag Run, the local kick-off event preceding the Gay Games V.

Team San Francisco will provide the charcoal and the picnicware. (Ooh, Chinette! How classy!) You just provide the food! The potluck assignments are as follows:

Last name A-G - Main dish
Last name H-Q - Salad
Last name R-Z - Dessert

Please keep the Jell-O salads to a minimum.

The first ferry departs Pier 41 (San Francisco) at 8:30 a.m. The last ferry departs Angel Island at 4:40 p.m. Call Blue & Gold for full weekend schedule (415) 773-1188.

Tickets cost $10 in advance if you buy them at A Different Light Bookstore on Castro Street. You can also attend a Saturday SF FrontRunners run at 9 a.m. at the Stow Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park. Once those tickets are gone, tickets will be available at the ferry terminal for the regular price of $11.

Ferry tickets are the only cost for this fabulous annual event. Ludwig recommends folks to "bring your blanket, sunscreen and sunglasses, and bring your address book! This is a great time to meet new friends!"

Depending on the weather, you might want to bring a jacket or a swim suit. When I attended, nothing was more fun than paddling in the warm – okay, tolerably chilly – waters of the bay while other folks circumnavigated the tiny island in kayaks.

For more information, call Team San Francisco at (415) 522-2386, San Francisco FrontRunners at (415) 978-2429, or visit the websites www.teamsf.org or www.sffrontrunners.com. You can also e-mail organizers Anne Ludwig at allatandem@aol.com, or Glenn Galang at glenn.galang@worldnet.att.net.

See you there next weekend!

Sports Complex is taking nominations for the queerest moments in 20th century sports. E-mail your suggestions to homeo@pacbell.net, or snail mail it to the *B.A.R.* office. And yes, Oscar de la Hoya's little performance at weigh-ins last weekend is the first nomination. ▼



Bisexuality Day

◀ page 22

bisexual people; technical assistance for local bi organizations; and information and resources on a variety of topics including support for straight spouses, polyamory, and same-sex marriage.

Although Bi Without Borders (BWB) aims to fulfill many of the functions already served by BiNet USA, organizers of the new group see room for a new organization. According to Tamara Froome, BWB's media coordinator, "There is so much work out there to do that it can only help to have additional energy and resources focused on those goals." Froome continued, "We are actively pursuing coalition-building with organizations such as the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), and we feel that these coalitions are extremely important. At the same time, each organization has unique goals which may best be pursued separately. Strength does not necessarily come through uniting under one singular flag, but in valuing our multiplicity and diversity and finding ways that we can most effectively focus our energy on helping the bi community as a whole."

Both the new bi flag and the new national organization represent an evolution in bisexual activism, which has heretofore been represented by a relatively small number of activists and has evolved from the work of a few key organizers beginning in the late 1980s. The new symbol, new bi holiday, and new national presence signal a growth in the size, visibility, and diversity of the bisexual community. ▼

For more information about Celebrate Bisexuality Day, see http://home.earthlink.net/~madamec/index.html. For information about BiNet USA, see www.BiNetUSA.org; for information on Bi Without Borders, see www.bisexual.org/biwithoutborders.

Castro tenants

◀ page 14

cation of the Castro." While adding that he is not concerned that the new owners of the Douglass Street building might be heterosexual – unlike the current tenants – he is worried that replacing Castro renters with higher income condo-owners is a trend that "could change the neighborhood, and its political base, which means we don't get courted like we do, which means we lose our political power."

For his part, Tull says he's tired of being a landlord, and simply wants out of the rental market. Tull wants to sell the units, he told the *B.A.R.* "This is what I'm legally entitled to do," he said.

"If they want to fight me in court, they're entitled to do that," he said. But Tull was most upset with the protests at his Castro Street business, which the tenants and their lawyer say they are planning to continue every Friday evening "for the duration of the eviction litigation."

"The Castro District is losing local businesses," said Tull, who leases the storefront space for his retail clothing business. "I'm a black business owner, in fact, I think the only one in the Castro."

Tull also contends that his business, which employs seven people, has itself absorbed a "huge" increase in rent in the last few months, and the protests have already had a noticeable impact on his sales when compared to last year. "If I go out of business, I'll be fine. But they're also attacking the livelihoods of seven people. I'm a very generous employer, and my employees are among the highest paid in the Castro."

Avicolli Mecca said he did not participate in designing the demonstrations at In-jean-ious, which according to Tull have included picketing inside the store, "blowing a whistle in my manager's ear," hanging a sign on a mannequin, and harassing customers. Still, Avicolli Mecca called the evictions an "abuse of the Ellis Act legislation," and said that a "tenant does have a right to live in a building that doesn't have a leaky roof."

Tull, 49, says the evictions had nothing to do with the complaints to the building inspector. "I'm getting old, and I have health issues," he said. "And for them to stress me out certainly doesn't make me want to capitulate."

The small business owner and landlord also objects to what he calls "libelous and slanderous" accusations from the protesters. "I'm not a slumlord; I don't even own a slum," said Tull, who lives in a unit behind the Douglass Street property.

"It's also a small person who's fucking over a bunch of tenants," said Avicolli Mecca. ▼

The Castro Tenants Union will meet Monday, September 27, at 7 p.m. at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco, located at 150 Eureka Street.

Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

prosecutor **Ken Starr**, speaking to a forum in Los Angeles last week, surprisingly praised President **Bill Clinton** for his "talented and natural gifts" and commended Clinton for the "energy and commitment" the president brings to his job.

While many observers are saying that Mayor Brown's re-election campaign is beginning to pick up steam as he becomes the favorite for another term, some of District Attorney **Terence Hallinan**'s supporters are reportedly "very worried" about the controversial prosecutor's chances of re-election. The sleeper to watch in this race: former Assistant District Attorney **Steve Castleman**.

Incidentally, from where I sit, the most important county proposition in the November election is Proposition A, the restoration of Laguna Honda Hospital; this is a must for San Francisco and deserves the support of all voters. Yes on Proposition A.

Four state political parties – Democratic, Republican, Libertarian, and Peace and Freedom – are asking the U.S. Supreme Court to throw out a California law that lets voters cast ballots for any candidate in primary elections, regardless of party affiliation, something that was approved by voters in 1996. However, if the Supreme Court agreed to review the appeal, it would almost certainly not be before the state's March 7 primary.

Texas Governor Bush's answer to the growing wave of shootings across the country, at schools, churches, businesses, and community centers is that "a wave of evil" is sweeping the land. And, no, guns don't kill people, people with guns do. The Texas gunman who shot up a Fort Worth church last week apparently got his 9 mm semi-automatic gun legally in that state. Tougher gun laws might have limited him to a less lethal weapon, but in Bush's Texas, anyone can carry a concealed weapon – under a law that Bush himself signed. Nope, it's not the evil guns, it's those evil people who use them. Bush, the darling of the National Rifle Association, would arm all Texans – indeed, all Americans. At least Gore and Bradley would license gun owners and register all handguns, but heck, Texans love their guns and "W" says he does too. Politicians – go figure. ▼

Bill Thorne

◀ page 27

student health field. He was a bulldog – would not let go of any issue, and Bill always had time to help people learn about their health," he said. Throne also read many biographies of gay activists. "He wanted to know how to do it. He wanted to be significant to other people and he wanted to give of himself. This is why he became an activist," speculated Birmingham.

Stephen LeBlanc, a fellow AIDS activist, said that Thorne had a basic impulse to help other people. Like many AIDS activists, a lot of Thorne's projects evolved from late night phone calls from people who had mostly been left to die. "He was undaunted and fearless when he set out to help," LeBlanc recalled. "He had a deep loyalty and affection for the gay community. He came out as a very young man and was well received in Boston and made a lot of friends. The community became like a second family." LeBlanc noted that Thorne carried his excitement and enthusiasm about the gay community throughout his life; it led him to want to help keep gay people alive. "Bill would stop people in the street who were thin and wasting and say, 'Hey, you don't have to waste' and then he would educate them about some options. He believed in getting options to people – but let the people decide which treatment, if any, to use," LeBlanc said.

Among Thorne's accomplishments was helping with pressuring the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to bring in new working policies for accelerated drug approval and expanded compassionate access. Martin Delaney remembered him as an aggressive partner in many coalitions. "He was working long before the protease drug days," said Delaney. "He did lots of work with Abbott with opportunistic infection drug access such as clarithromycin. He would go to meetings with drug companies all day, then organize 'after event' parties for fellow activists," laughed Delaney. Thorne never stopped being a gay man in those days.

Thorne also worked on the national protease working group, anabolics and growth hormone for AIDS working group, and was the first activist to unearth scientific abstracts about the use of anabolics for wasting. Thorne saw this entire class of drugs through the FDA and into wasting patients' frail bodies. In 1997 the expression "buff AIDS queen" became a new slang term on the street. Thorne was also responsible for widespread patient access to Anadrol, Oxandrolone, Deca-Durabolin, and human testosterone. He actually wrote the AIDS indication for Serono's human growth hormone in a darkened meeting room at the FDA one late afternoon.

Among many other accomplishments, Thorne helped change Kaiser's HIV care and became a patient leader along with his former partner, Dr. David Mahon. They fostered the new 1990s Kaiser HIV care model, which Kaiser still boasts about to this day.

During the winter of 1997, Thorne was severely beaten by New York police officers at a 10 year AIDS anniversary demonstration on Wall Street. Thorne suffered serious head injuries, and according to friends, never fully recovered from the ordeal. He later won a lawsuit with New York City regarding the attack. ▼

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Compensation will be paid.

If interested, contact: Mustafa Noor, MD, Metabolism Section, UCSF/SF VA MEDICAL CENTER (415) 750-2005

LEGAL NOTICES

STATMENT FILE NO. 234852
The following person(s) are doing business as, Auto Leandro. 2925 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Ismar Leandro da Silva. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 09/17/99.
SEPT.23,30, OCT.7,14, 1999

STATMENT FILE NO.234853
The following person(s) are doing business as, George's Auto Repairs. 101 Farallones Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed George Servin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 09/17/99.
SEPT.23,30, OCT.7,14, 1999

STATMENT FILE NO.234271
The following person(s) are doing business as, The Center For Higher Alignment. 1594 Market Street #514, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Steban F. Guevara. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/25/99.
SEPT.23,30, OCT.7,14, 1999

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATMENT FILE NO. 234215
The following person(s) are doing business as, Fountain Express. 1321 La Playa #12 San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Gregory T. Barker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8/24/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/24/99.
SEPT. 2,9,16,23 1999

STATMENT FILE NO. 234280
The following person(s) are doing business as, Coral Media. 3701 Sacramento Street, #141, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a general partnership, Matthew Taylor Clark & William Patrick Mock. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8/25/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/25/99.
SEPT 9,16,23,30 1999.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE
To Whom It May Concern:
The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) Is/are:
SIX DEGREES INC
The applicants lised above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at:
312 HARRIET STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94103
Type of license(s) applied for:
47- ON-SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE
SEPT. 9,16,23 1999

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Application is: Motels Of San Francisco Inc. The application listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages to sell alcoholic beverages at: 104 Seventh Street San Francisco, Ca. 94103. For the following type of License: 41- On Sale Beer & Wine -Eating Place.
SEPTEMBER 16,23,30, 1999

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATMENT FILE NO. 234672
The following person(s) are doing business as, Sparky's Electric. 350 Bay Street #100 Box 225, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Aaron Bartlett. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9/10/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 09/10/99.
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2 Outreach Workers. Men's substance abuse - 40 hours

Provide street based outreach services; set up and facilitate off-site groups; provide in-service training on methamphetamine using MSM. Position includes documentation of services, recordkeeping and other duties as assigned. Minimum Qualifications: Demonstrated knowledge, experience and ability to work with methamphetamine using MSM, HIV/AIDS, prevention, substance abuse use/abuse services and street outreach; ability to work with a staff team; sensitivity to and competency in working with multicultural diversity issues within the lbgtqiq communities; outreach worker certification (ICHO or CITY COLLEGE) preferred. Salary $26,265 - 27,326.

Outreach Coordinator. Men's substance abuse - 40 hours

Direct and scheduale team of outreach workers; provide street based outreach services; set up and facilitate off-site groups; provide in-service training on methamphetamine using MSM. Position includes documentation of services, recordkeeping and other duties as assigned. Demonstrated knowledge, experience and ability to work with methamphetamine using MSM, HIV/AIDS, prevention, substance use/abuse services and street outreach; ability to work with and supervise a staff team; sensitivity to and competency in working with multicultural diversity issues within the lgbtqiq communities; outreach worker certification (ICHO or City College) required. Salary $28,000 - 30,000.

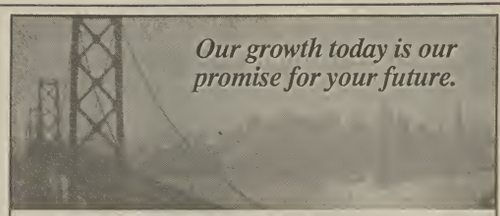
Clinician. Men's drug treatment services - 40 hours

The position includes the provision of substance abuse services providing individual, couples, and/or group counseling. This is a full time benefited position. Requirements: MA in health related field (social work, counseling, psychology), or equivalent experience. Prefer licensure or license eligible. Experience in the fields of mental health, HIV/AIDS, and/or substance abuse, including abstinence-based and harm reduction approaches. Cultural competence and sensitivity in working with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender clients, people of color, people with disabilities.

RESUME AND COVER LETTER TO:

Rick Mixon, Ph.D., MFCC
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Assistant Director of Development, AIDS Research Institute

You will maintain corporate/foundation/individual support for the UCSF HIV/AIDS Web site, manage annual giving programs, increase corporate sponsorship for science-to-community events/AIDS research/clinical care, and implement a volunteer-based special gifts fundraising program. Requires 3-5 years' progressive successful fundraising experience; excellent communication/interpersonal abilities; flexibility to travel and work some nights/weekends; and a B.A./B.S. Experience in a large university or healthcare setting preferred. **Ref. Job #NBAA12657**

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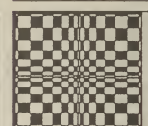
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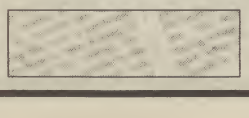
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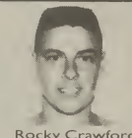
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BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 29 • No. 38 • 23 September 1999

Fluid sexualities



Kevin McKidd, Jennifer Ehle, and Tom Hollander in *Bedrooms and Hallways*

by Gary Morris

Rose Troche's *Bedrooms and Hallways*

Rose Troche's *Go Fish* (1994) was one of the highlights of mid-'90s New Queer Cinema, an upbeat, inventive low-budget lesbian comedy from an authentic lesbian. The appearance of her second film, *Bedrooms and Hallways*, opening Friday in the Bay Area, is a surprise on several levels. For one thing, it shouldn't have taken four years to get it off the ground, and another year to get it into general release, since it has every earmark of the ideal gay date movie. Chalk that up to persistent cultural anxieties around funding and distributing queer cinema.

This time around, Troche replaces the homely, nearly bald lesbians and unapologetic dykes of the earlier film with middle-class queens and the straight women who adore them, all looking like they stepped off the covers of *GQ* and *Elle*. While *Go Fish* proudly bore the marks of its tortured history, with grainy visuals, sometimes ragged acting, and a general air of money-based compromises, *Bedrooms and Hallways* is much slicker in every regard — the British cast is often superb, as if Troche had plenty of time and budget for rehearsals; the script is full of pith; and the photography is superior, particularly in its skillful use of a mobile camera as the perfect analog for its characters' shifting alliances.

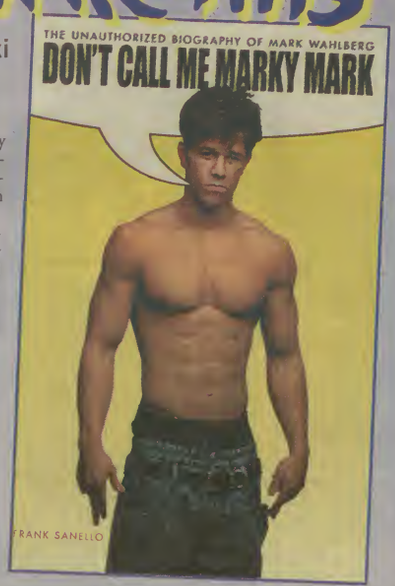
If *Go Fish* was Troche's insider dyke epic, *Bedrooms and Hallways* is her double paean to gay male sexuality and to the uncertain pleasures of shifting sexualities, as the millennium settles in on us in earnest. Like other recent dyke-directed movies about gay men, this one gains points for getting the details of homo love and lust ringingly right. (Gay male directors should be forced to watch certain scenes from this and perhaps Ana

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Marky Marketing

by Jim Nawrocki

Don't Call Me Marky Mark: The Unauthorized Biography of Mark Wahlberg by Frank Sanello; Renaissance Books, $16.95



For most gay men in their 20s and 30s, Mark Wahlberg (formerly the artist known as Marky Mark) has been one of the more memorable male sex symbols of the last ten years or so. His name conjures up images of one beautifully chiseled body and a certain young rap performer who had a penchant for dropping his drawers.

I remember hearing, sometime in the early 1990s, a friend's description of the young rapper's appearance at a gay dance club. My friend, at the time a graduate student in classical literature, sounded somewhat apologetic as he confessed to attending the concert. But when he described the "electricity" that ran through the crowd as Marky Mark stripped off his shirt, I found myself wishing I had been there to see it, too. I still wish I'd been there. There's no doubt that Wahlberg had, and still has, powerful sex appeal. In recent years he's proved that he's also a competent actor. But perhaps the one quality that's been most important to Wahlberg's career is his ability to make shrewd decisions and reinvent himself when he has to.

Frank Sanello, a Los Angeles-based entertainment-industry journalist, chronicles Wahlberg's life and career in his new book, *Don't Call Me Marky Mark*. As the title implies, the Mark Wahlberg of today is much different from the loose-trousered rap performer who shot to fame in the early '90s. From a marketing perspective, one has to admire how Wahlberg parlayed his modest musical abilities and exhibitionist tendencies into a career as an actor who would one day win

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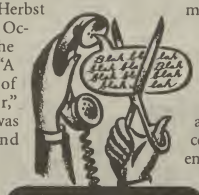
by Roberto Friedman and Comedy Tonight

Out There chatted on deadline with lesbian comedian **Lisa Geduldig**, the producer of those well-attended Kung Pao Kosher Comedy nights, who is bringing a new showcase, *Funny Girlz*, to the Herbst Theatre on Saturday, October 2 at 8 p.m. The show is subtitled "A Smorgasbord of Women's Humor," which we thought was rather unusual and catchy.

"I use 'smorgasbord' instead of 'multicultural' because I'm tired of 'multicultural,' and 'smorgasbord' does have a ring to it," admitted Geduldig. The food theme also goes along with her history of performing in Chinese restaurants with steam tables.

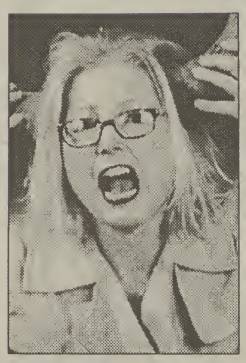
"It's different from a buffet," Geduldig insisted. "In fact, we should adapt 'smorgasbord' as a gay word. We're done with 'fabulous!'"

We digressed briefly to relive memories of a certain TV commercial starring pug-faced child actor **Mason Reese** ("It's like a borgashmoard in a can!"), and then the comedy entrepreneur enumerated the culinary selections on her production menu (call 392-4400 for tickets, $20-25).



Comic **Diane Amos** was raised by two lesbian mothers, one African-American and one Jewish — the comic possibilities seem endless. Comedian **Elvira Kurt** is a Canadian lesbian comic: that's funny right there. **Page Hurwirtz** is a hilarious lesbian currently riding high in the SF Comedy Competition. One-name-only **Luenell** is Oakland's "bad girl" of comedy; and **Tessie Chua** is a Filipina-Chinese American SF native. Tasty!

Another of the comedy gals appearing in *Funny Girlz* is billed as "Josie's Cabaret's favorite straight comic" **Bridget Schwartz**, and while that tag-line may be accurate, we know for sure that she is our boyfriend **Thing**'s fave stand-up, straight or bent. Her curious bio in the show's press materials claims that Schwartz "was born in 1834 outside of Prussia," and that she and "her pet hedgehog escaped communist rule by impersonating wedges of imported cheese." Schwartz also claims that she "spends her days knitting giant underpants for circus elephants."



Bridget Schwartz

Extreme exposure

You know if we have stooped to repeating underpants jokes that it's time for us to describe the Macy's Passport '99 gala, whose theme this year was "Extreme," and the highlight of which, this year as every year, was the phalanx of lovely male models parading around in their skivvies. It's a special treat for the swells who have ponied up big AIDS fundraiser bucks for front-row seats abutting the catwalk — or in this case, the pecs-and-basketswalk.

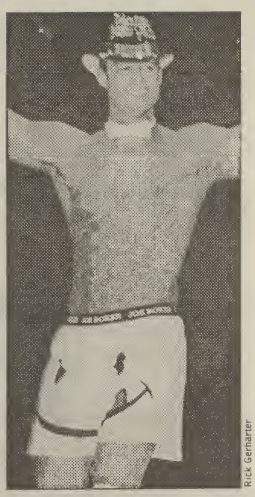
Before the underpants segment, however, there was a cocktail party to get through, then a couple of earnest speeches by Macy's and American Express CEOs about fighting complacency and finding a vaccine, then appearances by celebs **Cindy Crawford**, **Magic Johnson** and **Sharon Stone**, looking *soigné* but wearing costume jewelry which could slay a circus elephant. We missed the press conference, but were offered a photo op of supermodel Crawford sitting at the Excite.com terminal and playing with the interface. She wasn't actually typing — that would ruin her nails — but she *was* "interfacing."



Rick Gerharter

Cindy Crawford at Passport '99

Then it was on to the main event, the fashion show, featuring gorgeous myodels parading back and forth in gorgeous, gorgeous clothes, but let's segue quickly to our favorite part, the boys-in-their-underpanties showstopper. We got boys in Egyptian headdresses and underpants, we got boys in Elizabethan drag and underpants, we got boys in their underpants whooshing by on scooters, and as a finale, we got a whole **Busby Berkeley**-style production number featuring boys in their Joe Boxers — the kind with the smiley faces licking their lips in some kind of oral satisfaction — and dress shoes and socks, pulled up with garter belts. Is this Joe Boxer designer **Nick Graham**'s own private fetish, or suggested partywear for the new millennium?



Rick Gerharter

Joe Boxer stud at Passport '99

The Beats go on

Director **Chuck Workman** attended the SF premiere of his Beat documentary *The Source* at the Castro Theatre last weekend, and a number of Beat dignitaries showed up, including SF poet laureate **Lawrence Ferlinghetti**, poet **Diane di Prima**, who read from her work in the '50s ("For you I would not pick my very pickable nose," a line from "a more-or-less love poem"), and raconteur **Paul Krasner**, who quipped, "It's a pleasure to be in San Francisco, the only city I know that has a mime troupe that screams at you."

A tale of two Eddies

In one of those eerie coincidences in the world of books, the biography of playwright **Edward Albee** (*A Singular Journey*, by *NY Times* critic **Mel Gussow**; Simon & Schuster) has appeared at the same moment as the autobiography of crooner **Eddie Fisher** (*Been There, Done That*, by EF with **David Fisher** — no relation; St. Martin's Press). At first glance, the highbrow gay playwright and

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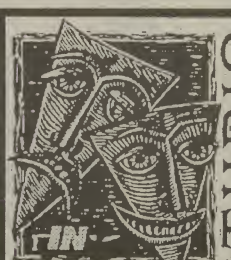


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'And the World Goes 'Round' at Piaf's

Big ballads in a small room

by Richard Dodds

The stage at Piaf's is of little-sparrow proportions. There's barely room for a piano and a singer, but that hasn't stopped the boite from staging a surprisingly physical five-person musical revue that even has the cast on roller skates at one point.

And the World Goes 'Round also makes use of the hallway to the kitchen, the center aisle to the front door, and a staircase to who knows where to present 33 songs by John Kander and Fred Ebb. It's an over-ample serving, though the hard-sell gaiety of the cast never flags.

Kander and Ebb are Broadway veterans whose credits include the musicals *Cabaret* and *Chicago*, the movie *New York, New York*, and reams of specialty material for Liza Minnelli. All of the above are represented, as well as some of the team's less impressive contributions to *Steel Pier, Kiss of the Spider Woman*, and *The Rink*.

What their songs invariably possess is a theatricality that makes them particularly well-suited to the revue format. The cast at Piaf's recognizes this, providing emotional contexts for the numbers, even though their success at connecting musically with the material is erratic.

An appealing three-course dinner is served in increments, before the show begins and during each of the two intermissions. But it must be disconcerting for the performers to play to the backs of diners hunkered down over their plates.



Steve Smage

The cast of *And the World Goes 'Round*

The first of the three acts is the most effective, or so it seems. As the evening lengthens, the deficiencies and foibles of the performers become more apparent, and by the end, you may find yourself counting down the numbers in the program. Both the performers and the audience would be served by some judicious editing.

Ruth Hastings, a local cabaret star, gets top billing and the big ballads. Her voice has the husky, lived-in vibrato of a veteran as she valiantly attacks such belters as "Maybe This Time" and "And the World Goes 'Round." An eerie smile and the idiosyncratic maneuverings of her mouth add to her distinct stage persona.

None of the other performers possess the kind of voice to do full justice to the expanse of music that confronts them, though Molly Hastings comes closest with a big sound in "All That Jazz" and a lithe and agreeable stage manner in "Arthur in the Afternoon." Alec Nathan Duffy makes pleasing sounds on "The Happy Time," though the top notes escape him on "The Kiss of the Spider Woman."

There is a frantic energy to the work of Denise Balthrop Cassidy, who had some trouble with the lyrics on opening night, while Jerry Skagerberg can't get beyond a showy artifice in his solo moments.

Musical director Christopher Winslow's piano accompaniment is accomplished, and director Dan Kryston's staging is inventive, especially considering the limited space, though the room is too small for the full-throttle energies that hammer at the audience. ▼

***And the World Goes 'Round* will run at Piaf's through Oct. 9. The dinner-show package is $55; show only, $25. Call 864-3700.**

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Kathryn Crosby as Vera Simpson in *Pal Joey*

Unlovable

'Pal Joey' in Marin

by Richard Dodds

According to Broadway legend, *Pal Joey* was ahead of its time when it opened in 1940. The cynical tale with a scintillating score divided audiences and critics, and faded from view as the season came to an end. Twelve years later, Broadway audiences had caught up with *Pal Joey* and turned its revival into a resounding success.

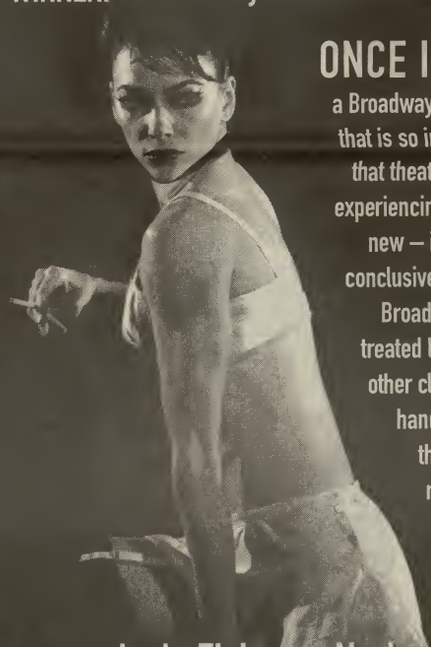
The only trouble with this happy ending, which the musical itself decidedly lacks, is that no one ever does *Pal Joey*. Well, almost never. That the Marin Theatre Company is opening its season with the show is enough of a novelty to lure musical-comedy junkies across the bridge.

But even in its daring, the theater is hedging its bets. Ads for the production trumpet it as a "'40s dance musical!" although the choreography is about the last thing mentioned in most discussions of *Pal Joey*. It's John O'Hara's hard-bitten book and Rodgers and Hart's sophisticated songs that usually get top billing.

At least the MTC production lives up to its own hype. Richard Gibbs' choreography is the liveliest, most inventive aspect of the evening, wryly capturing the antic chorus-girl steps of past. In the acting category, things are so-so, and somewhat less than that in

next page ▶

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Four faces of hate

'Steel Kiss' opens NCTC season

by Richard Dodds


Lois Tema

Billy Allen and Rajiv Shah in *Steel Kiss*

The cast of *Steel Kiss* is so good it's almost scary.

These four young actors play the kind of testosterone-fueled, beer-swilling, disaffected adolescents that give heterosexuality such a bad name. You'll recognize the type instantly, perhaps reflecting back to the horrors of high school, when you hoped that they would just go away.

In Robin Fulford's play, opening the New Conservatory Theatre Center's Pride season, they don't go away. Not even after they've been arrested for kicking to death a gay man who was cruising in their park, their turf.

The playwright has broken up the narrative, jumping around in time, so the murder comes early and the scenes that follow occur both before and after the event. The second act takes place after a short prison stay, as they, sadder but no wiser, try to reconnect with their old world.

Fulford's play, actually two separate one-acts that have been combined here, shows how deep-rooted, even visceral, homophobia can be. And misogyny is clearly a kissing cousin in this case. But the causes are only hinted at, and what we get is a realistic depiction of foul behavior without a context that would help make it all more meaningful.

Still, director Ed Decker has stylishly staged this stylized play, keeping energies raw and the buzz of danger always close at hand. His work with the cast is excellent. Even as time abruptly shifts, and they must suddenly channel new emotions, the cast members stay firmly in the moment. It helps keep us there as well.

Though they at first all seem to be of a piece, the characters develop telling individual characteristics, providing them with a humanity that the actors skillfully communicate. Billy Allen plays the hotheaded Neil, Lino Antonio the good-natured goof Jack, James Marks the tightly wound Tony, and Rejiv Shah the sexually confused Billy.

Desiree Rogers, who shows up in the second act, plays all the various women in their lives, including mother, lover, sister, and fiancee. She does a fine job of switching hats in an instant.

The first half of *Steel Kiss* had its premiere in Toronto in 1987, two years after a gay man was slain in a Toronto park by a group of boy-next-door types. The relevance to today is obvious, which makes the play's absent insights all the more frustrating. ▼

Steel Kiss will run through Oct. 30. Tickets are $13-$22. Call 861-8972.

Pal Joey

◀ previous page

the singing department.

Back in the '40s, *Pal Joey* certainly wasn't typical fare. The title character is a thoroughly unlovable cad who lies and sleeps his way to momentary success. His patron is a libidinous socialite who uses and disposes of men like a crumpled tissue. Even Richard Rodgers noted that but a single character "had a bowing acquaintance with decency [and] that one character didn't have a brain in her head."

For this kind of material to work, it needs a razor-sharp slickness that is seldom found in director Albert Takazauckas' production, which rumbles along in a community-theater sort of way.

Rudy Guerrero as Joey, a low-level nightclub performer, is full of snappy energy and flashing smiles that don't translate into the darkly charismatic con man that is needed. His singing voice is certainly not his strongest asset. That's also true of Casondra Campbell as the decent but witless ingenue, and their duet on the classic "I Could Write a Book" is a limp affair.

Nor does Kathryn Crosby, as the older woman who buys Joey's companionship, make much of a vocal impression, though her delivery of "Bewitched" entertainingly projects the song's oversexed message. Crosby does have a stage presence, though her face is of limited dexterity save for an occasional (and somewhat disturbing) wide-eyed glare.

When Kirk Herring, as a nightclub performer, comes out at the top of the second act to sing the purposefully foolish "Flower Garden of My Heart," it's a delight to finally hear a rich, strong legit voice. The same effect is felt when Karen Hall belts out "Zip," a comic tribute to stripper Gypsy Rose Lee's intellectual pretensions.

Cassandra Carpenter's costumes are a stylish asset, though the sets by Ronald E. Krempetz mainly get points for moving on and off stage quickly. An eight-piece band led by David H. Shepard, on stage throughout the show, is not able to raise the musical level of the production. ▼

***Pal Joey* will run at the Marin Theatre Company in Mill Valley through Oct. 10. Tickets are $24-$40. Call 388-5208.**

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Sing out, Louise!

SFO's steamy sex opera that isn't

by Stephanie von Buchau

During the tedious first performance of the San Francisco Opera's new production of *Louise* last week, I suddenly remembered my favorite postmodern aphorism: "What urge will save us, now that sex won't?" It was obviously a response to AIDS, but it could just as easily have been a reply to the social naiveté of composer Gustave Charpentier.

Louise, which debuted in Paris in 1900, is often held up as the first truly "relevant" opera, meaning that its morals can be applied to today without wrenching the fabric of the work or the sensibilities of contemporary listeners. In theory, perhaps; in this particular execution, no way. The work is an uneasy amalgam of kitchen-sink realism (the outer acts) and romantic, nightmarish fantasy (the two inner acts, here welded to one long arc). There would be nothing wrong with this scheme if the music were rhythmically and melodically stronger and not so heavily overscored. As my weary companion quipped, "The thing just heaves, it never comes."

One aria lives in this score, Louise's erotic "Depuis le jour," a staple of *lirico-spinto* sopranos. Fabulous recordings by Dorothy Kirsten, Eleanor Steber and Beverly Sills have made listeners want to hear the whole opera. Renée Fleming, oddly enough, was not in that class in the aria, though elsewhere she did some powerful singing. She pecked at the vocal line, pausing and then scooping upward, when what is required is a stream of steadily mounting rapture. The aria is about Louise's first sexual experience and how happy it has made her, to say nothing of the repeats; Julien must be some stud. But if there was one thing missing in the War Memorial, it was sex. This *Louise* was as decorous as the vicar's tea party.

When I was 23, I thought *Louise* was hot. Innocent girl defies Puritanical parents and runs off with her Bohemian poet-lover to be crowned "The Muse of Montmartre." And they live happily ever after, unlike those miserable Bohemians in *La Bohème*. I know better now. Not only does nobody live "happily ever after" — not even in *Louise*, where you can bet that by the time she escapes her parents the second time, Julien will have installed a new mistress in his hilltop cottage — but Puccini's opera is economical, unpreachy and orgasmically melodic.

Louise is none of these things. It is discursive (three-and-a-half hours, even with cuts), didactic (the Father's anti-poverty rant makes you want to rebel and splurge on caviar and Champagne) and, except for "Depuis le jour" and the Paris motto that Julien sings (or chokes on) at the opening, quite amorphously untuneful. The euphemism often applied to this opera is "fragrant," and the opera orchestra was in mid-season form. Yet conductor Patrick Summers seemed to be drowning in the sweetness of the piece, unable to animate much of it. He certainly should have hissed at Fleming during the aria, "Sing out, Louise!"

Incest is best?

Drifting impressionistically, the work dawdles musically to its climactic scene, where Louise's father all but comes on to her incestuously. (I think this is a late-century reaction; Charpentier didn't realize how it would seem with a reasonably youthful daddy (Samuel Ramey) instead of the doddering old singer more common in his era.) The battle of wills between father and daughter is couched in Wagnerian terms, and here is where Fleming, with her refulgent top notes, and Ramey, with his dramatic bass, were able to let loose.



Larry Merkle

Tenor Jerry Hadley and soprano Renée Fleming in SF Opera's *Louise*

But by then I didn't give a hoot about Louise or her boho boyfriend, weakly sung by Jerry Hadley, an artist who can give great pleasure when he is properly cast. Julien lies a third too high for his lyric tenor, and the strain was aural from the opera's opening phrases. (Remember, too, that *Louise* debuted at the Opéra-Comique, which is literally half the size of the War Memorial.) Hadley should know better than to accept a role he can't sing, but he is a tenor, after all. The opera company is culpable for casting him in the first place.

The buck stops at Lotfi Mansouri, whose pet project this was. He obviously adores the work, commissioning pretty sets from Thierry Bosquet. Okay, if his decorous dreams are ignited by the piece, the way mine are by Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Invisible City of Kitezh* (a 20th-century opera far more musically worthy of receiving a million dollar-plus production at SFO), then I understand him going for it. But Mansouri learned his pastel romantic ideas from '50s movies, which makes this supposedly shocking *Louise* seem as if it had been produced by Ross Hunter, glossy but several stages removed from the truth. As for visible eroticism, nothing. The four-minute tango in ACT's *Threepenny Opera* is steamier than the entire love duet of this *Louise*. ▼

Louise continues through October 2. Call 864-3330 for tickets and information.

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Musician I Dewa Putu Berata is one of seven renowned Balinese performers who will join the Bay Area's 40-member ensemble Gamelan Sekar Jaya for their 20th Anniversary Festival. Their concerts of Balinese music and dance will take place at the Cowell Theater, Fort Mason, Sept. 24-26. Three of the four concerts will also include an appearance by Indian tabla maestro Swapan Chaudhuri. For tickets, call 441-3687. ▼

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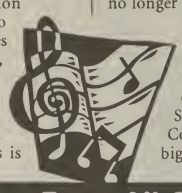
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On the musical town (and gowns)

by Tim Pfaff

It's all over us again. "The Star-Spangled Banner." They're playing it everywhere, and no one is throwing out the first ball (although more than a few are off throwing up), so it must be the beginning of the music season. But even if it's not over yet, the worst of it is.



Notes From All Over

For serious listeners, the problem with season openers, especially at the Opera, is that the real show is seldom the one on stage, it costs more than usual, and one pays in a variety of ways. Hating — or coveting — all those gowns can be emotionally draining in its own right, and most of the people in them don't seem to know how to behave in public, for one conspicuous evening, at least. Then, too, all the preparation seems to have gone into the clothes, the parties and the press releases, so the shows tend to be a little, well, ragged. And the problem if you're a member of the press is that it's rude to say so, because it ruins everyone's very expensive fun the day after, when the crowd's less, shall we say, cheerful, anyway. Ah, the rites of fall.

Things have been different, slightly, this year. Kent Nagano seems to have found some late-summer project that prevented the Berkeley Symphony from being the first out of the gate this fall. (Its impact on social life in the People's Republic of Berkeley is awaiting monitored elections later this month.) And, as every English-speaking music journalist in the West has already commented, the San Francisco Symphony scooped the Opera not only with an earlier opening (this is, after all, already tradition) but with opera. The stars of its opening-night gala were the extravagant art's evil twins, soprano Angela Gheorghiu and her hubby, tenor Roberto Alagna, who provided exactly what opening nighters wanted: looks. From published reports, the illusion that the pair, indubitably superstars, are also musicians of consequence survived the evening, if barely.

Illness spared me the event — and landed me in front of the tele for a musical event locals are going to have a hard time rivaling: the season opener of PBS' *Live from the Met* season, this one a telecast of Tchaikovsky's *Pikovaya Dama*, taped at the Met last April. Say what you want about the Met's physical production, the music-making was of a class we simply don't get here any more, and consequently more than a little bittersweet. It came as a stabbing reminder that Valery Gergiev, one of the greatest and certainly the most interesting opera conductor on the circuit today, made the right decision in signing an exclusive contract with the Met for his US appearances — despite his having made his American debut here and worked here most seasons between 1991 and last year. A dream cast, including Plácido Domingo (who no longer sings opera here, just galas) in a searing, brilliant reading of his 112th role, was topped by the redoubtable Elisabeth Söderström as the Countess, after whose big scene there wasn't a dry seat in the house (mine at least). You had to be there.

But you probably weren't. If you were anybody, that is. Unpublished reports tell me that socialite behavior reached new lows at the Symphony gala, recalling that nagging question: how long until they call each other on their cells to discuss the spectacle (by which we don't mean the performance)? Think about it. Or don't.

Press clips

Back to the press. The official interpretation of the Symphony program was that is was a nose-thumbing across Grove Street, particularly with Deborah Voigt announced to sing the final scene from *Salome* in subscription concerts at the Symphony the next week. Well, anything that sheds a harsh light on the casting policies at the Opera is a gesture worth making, but this one backfired, as so many mean-spirited gestures are wont to do. (I'm not saying the Symphony's programming was mean-spirited, by the way. To me, it merely looked interesting and welcomely out of the ordinary. Ascribing meaning — of any kind — to it seems risky and sensationalist and more than a little silly.) The Couple didn't seem to thrill anyone I talked to, and Voigt canceled. Oops.

Meanwhile, across Grove Street, the Opera responded with an entirely credible — and creditable — *Un Ballo in Maschera* that struck me as one of its most successful opening nights in memory. I won't re-review Stephanie von Buchau here, particularly as we mostly agreed. But hearing a well-prepared performance of a difficult (downright quirky in its brilliance) opera in an all-around fine ensemble effort was, to say the least, gratifying. And to whatever extent the Symphony has stolen "the show," in terms of the one Pat Steger covers, well, fine. The Symphony can do it with a shorter show, and has never shown much of an interest in playing music that night, anyway. And opera fans have half a chance at hearing the opera they paid a month's San Francisco rent to hear. And the problem is? My only significant disagreement with my esteemed *B.A.R.* colleague is that I thought the Opera's opening-night audience was nearly model in its behavior. People seemed to me to be listening attentively to a performance that warranted it, and I spent far less time during intermissions dodging projectile emesis in the Men's Room. I'm easy.

My fear, unfounded in the event, was that the glama crowd was saving itself for last Monday's premiere of *Louise*, Lotfi Mansouri's megaproduction of an opera barely worth reviving. I thought the mere appearance of Renée Fleming in the title role would confer a sense of Occasion on the occasion. But I detected little sense of occasion, upper or lower case, that evening, and the atmosphere of deep mourning seemed entirely appropriate. Kudos to the *Examiner*'s Allan Ulrich for citing the opera's "anesthetic charm." Still, like another of the *Ex*'s regulars, we felt its pain.



Caroline Greyshock

Kronos Quartet

And it's not over yet. The Kronos Quartet opens its "home season" this weekend — its first without longtime cellist Joan Jeanrenaud, who has now announced her formal resignation from the quartet and not just a "leave." The word on the wire is that her replacement, Julia Culp (a musician I've long admired), is doing great. Still. Joan. Oh, well. It's a promising program full of Steve Reich, always worth a listen, and with guest artist Kayham Kalhor in the world premiere of his *Gallop of a Thousand Horses*. Kalhor is from that Persian-Indian tradition of *gazal* (ecstatic singing about love, human and divine), which has shown signs of dying in the West alongside its chief proponent, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, who died an early death shortly after his last Bay Area appearance a couple of years ago. That would be distinctly too bad. When people start renting the movie *Dead Man Walking*, to get ready for the premiere of Jake Heggie's opera next fall, they're going to hear Nusrat again, in the great soundtrack, and wonder where he's been. If you're up to guzzling a *gazal*, be at Yerba Buena Center Friday or Saturday. You won't mind, and with any luck, you'll lose yours. ▼

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Saints and amphibians

by Richard Dodds

This week, Backstage previews a play from LA in which Diana Ross is a saint, reports on changes at Theatre Rhino, and looks at the future of 42nd Street Moon.

Diana as patron saint

His former roommate was such a Diana Ross fanatic that Robert Banks Ramirez thought he'd go nuts if he had to listen to "Reach Out and Touch" one more time. But the roommate did introduce him to one song by the Diana Ross and the Supremes that struck a chord with the aspiring playwright.

"The song was 'Ask Any Girl,' and it really stood out in my head," Ramirez said recently from his home in Los Angeles. "It is a song about loss, and dealing with the after-effects of that."

Ask Any Girl not only became the title of Ramirez's first produced play, he invokes the spirit of Diana Ross throughout it. "I think she would love this piece," he said, "because it pays just complete homage to her and what she means to a lot of people in the black gay community."

But the play, opening at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre on Sept. 30 as part of the Cultural Odyssey Performance Festival, really isn't about Diana Ross at all — even if one of its characters is a drag diva from Oakland named Mahogany Saint Ross.



Robert Banks Ramirez

"I've had a lot of transgender friends, and I had one who passed from AIDS who I loosely based the Mahogany character on," Ramirez said. But in the play, it is not Mahogany who has died, but her best friend whose surviving twin brother is the only other character.

The twin is a closeted Harvard law graduate who, unlike his late brother, has no use for Mahogany's lifestyle. "It's pretty much about them dealing with the loss of something they both loved dearly, as well as confronting each other and establishing a new bond," Ramirez said.

After writing a one-act version three years ago, Ramirez developed a full-length *Ask Any Girl* that has had two productions in LA with the same cast. Jazzmun, a striking transgender performer with numerous screen credits, is recreating her role as Mahogany, and Wheaton James continues in the role of the surviving brother.



Jazzmun and Wheaton James in Robert Banks Ramirez' *Ask Any Girl*

"Most of the things out there that dealt with AIDS seemed sort of depressing, and I wanted to write something that would celebrate the lives of these people who had passed," Ramirez said. "And there wasn't too much out there that dealt with it from the African-American perspective."

Ramirez, 32, works by day at a commercial production company. His primary focus is screenwriting, and he has written a script based loosely on the life of his mother, a Latina lesbian who came out in the early 1960s. She passed away two years ago, at age 50.

"It was almost scarily ironic the way it happened," Ramirez said, "because some of the things I had written I found myself saying. The play became my saving grace, because I had to believe in the words I had written."

Ramirez hopes that *Ask Any Girl* will eventually find its way to New York. "Our dream," he said, "is that we're going to keep doing it until Diana comes."

For ticket information, call 621-7797.

Shuffling jobs at Rhino

Changes are afoot at Theatre Rhino, but how they will all shake out is an unknown. Doug Holsclaw is now the acting artistic director of the 21-year-old gay and lesbian theater, taking over from departing artistic director Adele Prandini.



Shaul van Eizen

Doug Holsclaw

"Adele has moved on to other things," Holsclaw said. "She'll be a guest director here in the future." Prandini was unavailable for comment.

Holsclaw, who had been the associate artistic director, doesn't know if the theater's board will tap him to be Prandini's official successor — or whether he will apply for the job.

"Right now we're forging ahead," Holsclaw said. "I'm excited because I think we're on the brink of moving into a larger realm."

Moon on the move

On a Clear Day You Can See Forever likely lost a little money for 42nd Street Moon, but it's not a calamity.

"In fact, it's sort of OK," said producing artistic director Greg MacKellan. "We probably took this step a year earlier than we were ready to, but it was good just to go ahead and do it."

For its staged concert production of *On a Clear Day,* 42nd Street Moon moved from the 140-seat theater at the New Conservatory Theatre Center to the 500-seat Gershwin Theatre. A small orchestra replaced the usual solo piano, and Andrea Marcovicci was contracted for the starring role.

It cost a lot, but *Clear Day* played to hundreds more than usually attend a 42nd Street Moon production at NCTC, many of whom were first-timers to the troupe that dusts off "lost musicals," according to MacKellan.

"I had worried how our shows work in the bigger theater, and I was pleased to discover that they did indeed work," he said. "But some of the things we do are still better served in a smaller space."

The company will return to NCTC for the remainder of the 1999 season, and then move to the downtown Eureka Theatre next season. But it will return to the Gershwin for the spring opening of the 2000 season.

"I can almost guarantee the big show will be by Cole Porter," MacKellan said. "We might do *50 Million Frenchmen* or *Out of This World.*"

The upcoming departure from its home for the past six years is "all very friendly," MacKellan said. "NCTC is ready to use the theater more themselves, and we feel we're ready to take the next step. It definitely was not a matter of them kicking us out."

Riding 'Shotgun'

"We have done gay-themed plays, but that's not the thrust of our work," said Patrick Dooley, artistic director of the Berkeley-based Shotgun Players. "But the issues in this play transcend sexual preference."

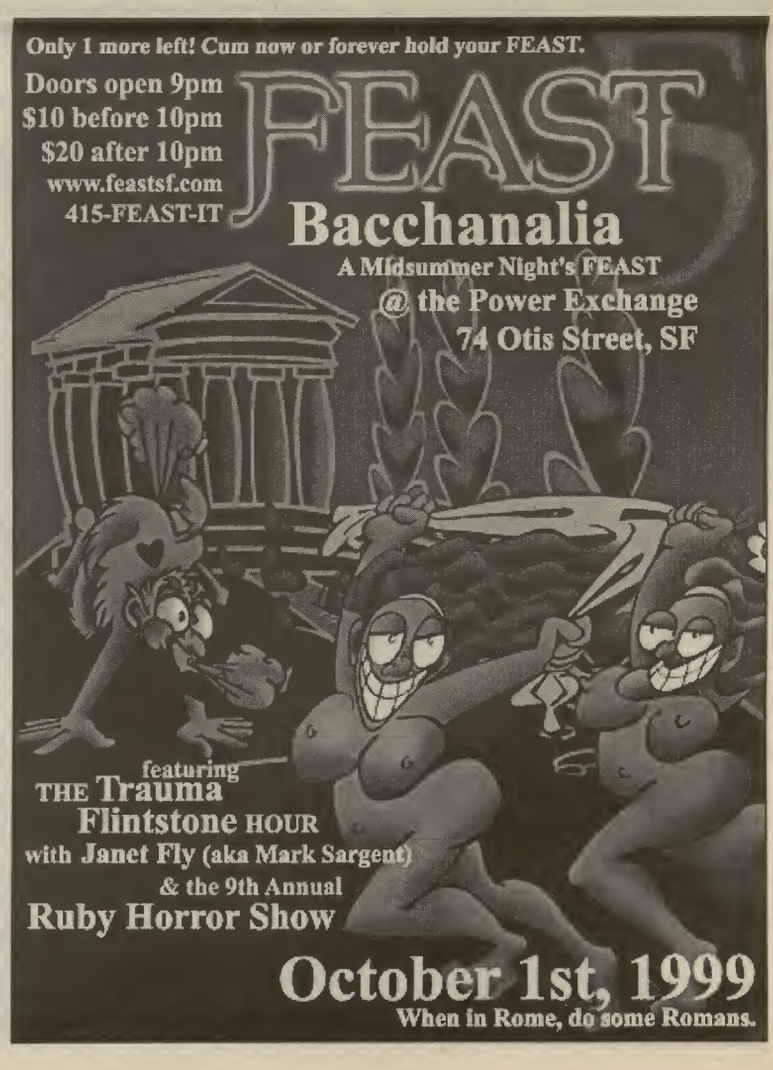
Dooley was talking about *Swimming in the Shallows,* a new play by San Francisco playwright Adam Bock that Shotgun is introducing to the Bay Area. It is running in the Studio at Theatre Rhino through Oct. 24.

The play focuses on three couples dealing with relationships. One of the pairs is straight, one is lesbian, and the other is gay/amphibian.

"The gay male is going through a problem with long-term relationships, and he meets a shark, and they fall in love," Dooley said. "It's absurd, but it seems to make perfect sense."

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Richard Dodds can be contacted at BARstage@aol.com.



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Albee revealed

Talking with Albee biographer Mel Gussow

by Bradley David

Edward Albee: A Singular Journey by Mel Gussow; Simon & Schuster, $30

In this, the first complete biography of three-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Edward Albee, author Mel Gussow offers a comprehensive portrait of this groundbreaking yet often misunderstood artist. Besides chronicling Albee's prolific career — from the sensational debut of his play *The Zoo Story* in 1960 to 1994's critically-acclaimed *Three Tall Women* — Gussow pierces the personal life of his subject, providing insight into how Albee's work has mirrored his own experiences in life.

Gussow leaves no stone unturned in analyzing Albee's troubled relationship with his adoptive parents ("I was not what they bargained for, what they thought they had bought," says Albee) and his life-long battle with alcoholism ("At twelve he was already the family bartender").

Along with anecdotes about the playwright's prickly personality and unforgiving nature towards those who have wounded him, Gussow writes of Albee's fierce loyalty to his true friends and his generosity towards his students. For the last decade, Albee has frequently taught at the University of Houston and other schools around the country.

The book's final chapters deal with Albee's recent years — a satisfying and productive period spent with his longtime partner, sculptor Jonathan Thomas, dividing their time between Manhattan and Montauk, Long Island. At age 71 and with many years of sobriety under his belt, the "playwright of his generation" shows no signs of stopping.



Nancy Crampton

Biographer Mel Gussow

Total access

While the notoriously private Edward Albee did not "authorize" the recent book about his life, he did offer, to an amazing degree, his cooperation with the project.

"He had no say over the manuscript, but he was very accessible and gave me access to letters and scrapbooks and papers and let me interview him many times for the book," says biographer Mel Gussow in a recent interview. "I think it goes back to the fact that I've known him for about 35 years and have written frequently about him. Clearly, there must have been a trust on his part."

Gussow (pronounced GUSS-oh), who has been a theater and culture critic for the *New York Times* for over 25 years, has known Albee since the playwright's most famous work, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, opened on Broadway in October, 1962.

"At the time, I was at *Newsweek* magazine as a critic and writer, and because of the fact that the regular theater critic was sick, I was called upon at the very last minute to review the play," he remembers. "Sometime thereafter, I sat down to do an interview with him, and that inspired me to suggest that *Newsweek* do a cover story on him. This was back in the days when newsmagazines gave far more attention to serious matters in the arts than they do today. That cover story appeared the next year, in February, 1963, and was one of the first long profiles ever written about him. So in the course of preparing that article, I got to know him rather well, and also a lot of his friends and associates at that time."

The author, who is heterosexual, says that understanding his subject's identity as a gay man never posed a problem.

"There's always been talk, for example, about whether only black critics should review black plays or only gay critics should review gay plays, and I think that's really a very dubious notion," Gussow says. "Any decent critic or biographer should be able to write about anybody, and hopefully to write with full understanding of the person. One shouldn't be at all pigeonholed as a biographer or a critic."

Stable hands

The book chronicles Albee's long-term relationships with composer William Flanagan and fellow playwright Terrence McNally, with whom he remains friends. Gussow writes that Albee credits his 25-year relationship with his current partner, Jonathan Thomas, for stability in his life and career.

While he has never been comfortable with the label "gay playwright," Albee has always been honest about his sexuality.

"He apparently never denied it, but it was not brought up in the early days because, in fact, that was not what one did if one wanted to be a working artist in the theater or elsewhere," says Gussow. "But when he was asked point blank about it, he did certainly talk about it, and over recent years he has certainly been very freely and openly what he is."

Albee has on occasion been criticized in the gay press for not having enough gay characters in his plays.

"He feels that being gay is one aspect of his life," says Gussow. "He's gay, he's a playwright, he's a man. It's all part of who he is, and he writes about all aspects of it, so occasionally there have been gay characters in his plays. It's just one part of his makeup and therefore one area that he can draw upon in his work."

It has been rumored over the years that the volatile relationship in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, immortalized by Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton in the movie version, was based on a relationship between two gay men.

"That's a story that's been floating around for years, and there's absolutely no truth to it," says Gussow. "As Albee has said frequently, if he wanted to write about two gay couples or a gay couple and a heterosexual couple, he would've done it, but that's not the nature of that play."

According to Gussow, Albee has read the biography since its recent release and displayed no negative reaction.

"I would say that in his typical noncommittal, somewhat removed, witty way, he probably does like it," says Gussow.

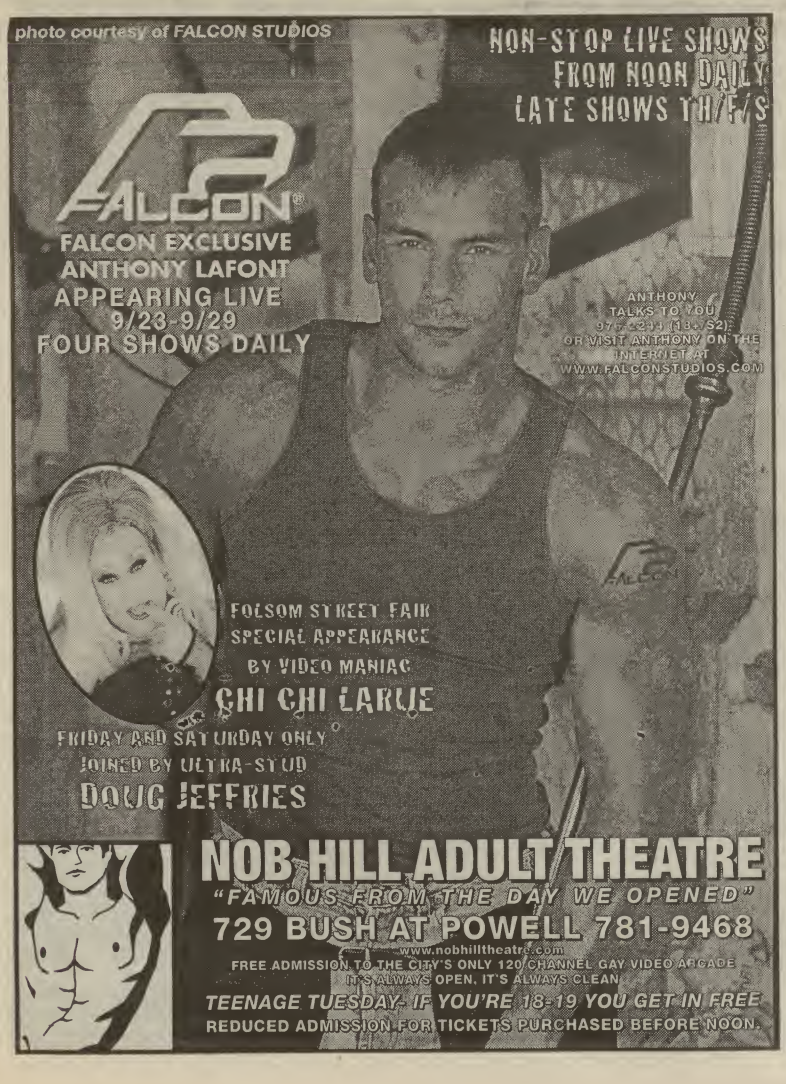
Asked if he considers Albee, now 71, to be in the twilight of his career, Gussow responds, "Absolutely not! He has a new play that I saw in London and liked very much called *The Play About the Baby*. It'll come to NY within the year, I think. He's working on still another play and probably has many other plays in mind. I would say that in direct contrast to Tennessee Williams at Albee's age or somewhat older, in a sense he's in the prime of his life. He really is filled with creative ideas, and I think has a lot more plays to write and to offer us." ▼

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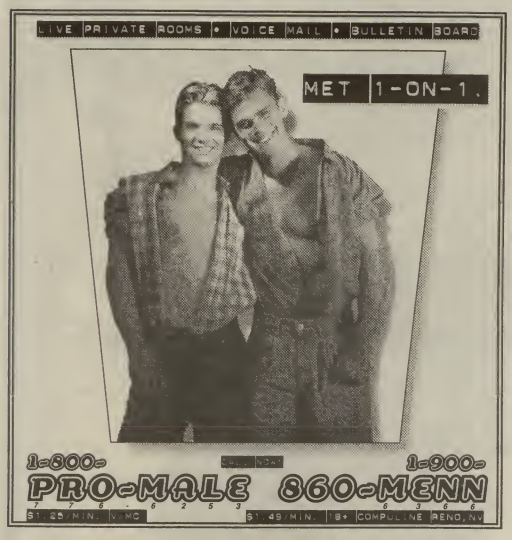
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Bedrooms

◀ *Arts cover*

Kokkinos' upcoming *Head On* for pointers.) Queer audiences may bristle at some of Troche's tropes, particularly an unexpected and unbelievable eleventh-hour hetero conversion, and the film sometimes goes overboard in satirizing easy targets like the men's movement and New Age-think. But *Bedrooms and Hallways* is a skillful sex farce that almost requires a scorecard to follow the movements of its ensemble cast. It's fast-paced, often engaging, and, if sometimes superficial and at the end, arguably heterosexist, it's also true enough in its observations to make it a rewarding 96 minutes.

Finding your inner homo

Leo (Kevin McKidd) is a queer cabinetmaker on the verge of that most feared event in Generation X (or Y) mythology: his 30th birthday. He lives with evil queen Darren (Tom Hollander) and gorgeous, perpetually horny straight girl Angie (Julie Graham). Still, this *Friends*-style family isn't enough; Leo longs for More. Lured by a hetero friend, he joins a straight men's group run by Keith (Simon Callow) and surprises everybody by using "the honesty stone" to confess his attraction to a hunky Irishman in the group, Brendan (James Purefoy). This triggers a series of engagements and reverses, with the men suddenly discovering, with varying results, their "inner homosexual."

Meanwhile, Brendan, who's in the process of shedding a seven-year straight relationship, begins to court a wary Leo, who eventually succumbs to Brendan's highly visible charms in spite of his (Leo's) fear of falling in love with a straight man. Some of the film's best scenes are the quiet moments, far from the film's farce, between the two of them before, during, and after sex. In a moment rarely seen in cinema, "straight" Brendan confesses that "gay" Leo fucked him, and he wants more: "You just can't get enough of it!" he wisely states.

Complicating matters are several subplots that occupy almost as much screen time as the Brendan-Leo affair. Brendan's ex-girlfriend turns out to be Sally, who was in love with Leo in high school. Darren, who represents Everyqueen, is involved with Jeffrey (*Priscilla of the Desert*'s Hugo Weaving), a real estate agent with a fetish for secretly screwing in the properties he's listed. (In one memorable scene, Jeremy ties Darren naked to a bed, only to be interrupted by the owner's sudden reappearance.) One of the men's group members becomes insanely jealous of Brendan and Leo's "breakthrough" and disrupts the group with his own homo wish-list. Angie takes up with Leo's best friend, and so on.



Julie Graham and Tom Hollander in *Bedrooms and Hallways*

'Straight' Brendan confesses that 'gay' Leo fucked him, and he wants more: 'You just can't get enough of it!' he wisely states.

Group therapy

One of the film's major targets, when, it isn't tracking the peccadilloes of its large cast, is the excesses of the New Age. Simon Callow's Keith is hilarious as the ridiculously earnest men's group leader; faced with a dramatic "breakdown" by one of the members, he leaps to action, unhinged by what he calls the "spontaneous rebirthing" of what looks to more jaundiced eyes like a drama queen's calculated hysteria. Even better is his wife Sibyl (the fabulous Harriet Walter), an arch creature who's like a one-woman Greek chorus: "Those two don't need to fight," she says of Brendan and one of the other men, "they need to fuck!" Troche miscalculates in having too many scenes of Keith and Sibyl's various groups, though the sequence where the men go on a "warrior camp-out" without food is funny indeed. Their intention of foraging soon vanishes, and they order a huge take-out feast, dancing and drumming naked around a campfire littered with Styrofoam boxes.

A standout among the actors is Tom Hollander's Darren, whose dementedly gleeful glances and casually vicious dish put him in a long line of superior cinema sissies that dates back to Franklin Pangborn and Clifton Webb. The rest of the cast acquits itself well, helped by Robert Farrar's clever script. Sample: Angie's earnest attempts to convince Leo that he must not go out with Sally, his high school flame and Brendan's ex. She uses an argument unassailable in certain circles: "Leo, you are a strawberry blonde. You can't go out with an ash blonde. It's not right!"

The film's mostly light, satirical tone doesn't prepare the viewer for a none-too-welcome ending in which Leo "touches base" with his heterosexuality. This conceit makes a degree of sense, given the film's concept of sexuality as fluid (though nobody is or becomes lesbian), but it can also be read as an unfortunate bone thrown to hetero audiences and distributors, who don't always like their queerness unalloyed. ▼



Simon Callow and Harriet Walter in *Bedrooms and Hallways*

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Melissa Etheridge breaks it down

A woman in love on her new CD

by Joyce Luck

Okay, I'll be upfront with you. Melissa's new album, *Breakdown,* is not the raw, passionate Melissa of her eponymous debut. *Breakdown* is a studio album more along the lines of *Never Enough,* with keyboards, drum machines, background vocals, and different musical styles ranging from country to retro to hip hop, all thrown into the mix.

But before you longtime fans tear out your hair, remember that *Never Enough* also garnered Melissa her first Grammy (for "Ain't It Heavy"). Truth is, I can't find a weak track on the entire new album. This compilation may very well surpass the success of 1994's *Yes I Am.* And Melissa's lyrics and vocal range have never been better.

"I challenged myself on *Breakdown.* I would not let myself coast," Melissa says. "The songs all came from great places. I dug deeper than I ever had before."

This process of digging deep inside herself can be heard on the album's most haunting track, "Into the Dark," a Peter Gabriel-esque tune which broods over the journey into the soul. Longtime session musician Pino Palladino, who appears on several of Etheridge's albums, here uses his bass to add a note of self-discovery to Melissa's inner searching.

Yet the album contains numerous tracks which should prove radio-friendly. The first single, "Angels Would Fall" — released August 31 and already charting — picks up a theme Etheridge has fiddled with since her pre-discovery days playing the song "Angel" in the Que Sera in Long Beach, California. 1989's *Brave and Crazy,* Melissa's second effort, contained the single "The Angels"; the music video, ironically, was directed by Melissa's then partner-to-be, Julie Cypher, in her directorial debut. Aptly, the video for "Angels Would Fall" — currently in heavy rotation on VH-1 — was directed by Melissa herself, in her own directorial debut.

Pillow chewing

Other possible singles from *Breakdown* include "Enough of Me," quintessential Etheridge because of its echoes of the pillow-chewing-jealousy of "Bring Me Some Water" and "Like the Way I Do." The album's title track, "Breakdown," should also be popular for its toe-tapping beat and country flavorings. "Mama I'm Strange" eases well into the current retro fad, and if not released as a single, it will still be a fun song in concert.



Melissa Etheridge

Love songs abound on the album, although Melissa is quick to point out that impressions of her as someone in a long-term relationship with the perfect partner and the perfect children are myths. She has to work at her relationship just like everybody else, she says. Nevertheless, acoustic ballads such as "Sleep," with lyrics like, "I want to lay down on your shoulder/Just inside your arm/I want to listen to your heartbeat/And your breathing on and on," taken alongside John Shanks' tender mandolin on "How Would I Know?" or his crying slide guitar on "My Lover," perhaps belie her. Melissa sounds like a woman in love. In fact, in one way or another, Melissa has said, practically all the songs on the album were inspired by partner Julie Cypher except for "Truth of the Heart," which she wrote for their children, Bailey and Beckett.

The other big stretch for Etheridge on this album, other than "Mama I'm Strange," is "Scarecrow." At first I was stunned that "Scarecrow" had a dance beat, because the song was written for Matthew Shepard and contains such grim lines as, "They tortured and burned you/They beat you and they tied you/They left you cold and breathing/For love they crucified you." But the song explodes in outrage in the middle, with so much layering and dissonance behind Kenny Aronoff's intense beat, I wouldn't be surprised if the track became a gay anthem and if DJs in clubs nationwide didn't use part of it in their mixes. It's not a dance of celebration, obviously, it's a dance of angry catharsis; yet, as Melissa sings, she "can forgive, but I will not forget."

Overall, five stars: a strong return after a three-year hiatus. This will be one that stays in my CD changer for a while. ▼

Joyce Luck is the author of the biography *Melissa Etheridge: Our Little Secret* (ECW Press).

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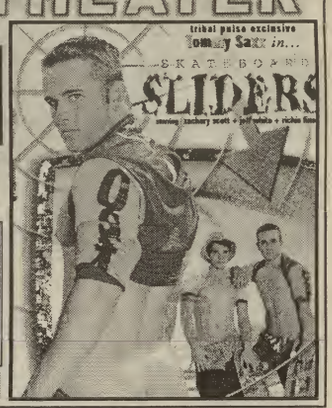
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Dancing into the future

Oakland Ballet Acting Artistic Director Joral Schmalle

by Aimée Ts'ao

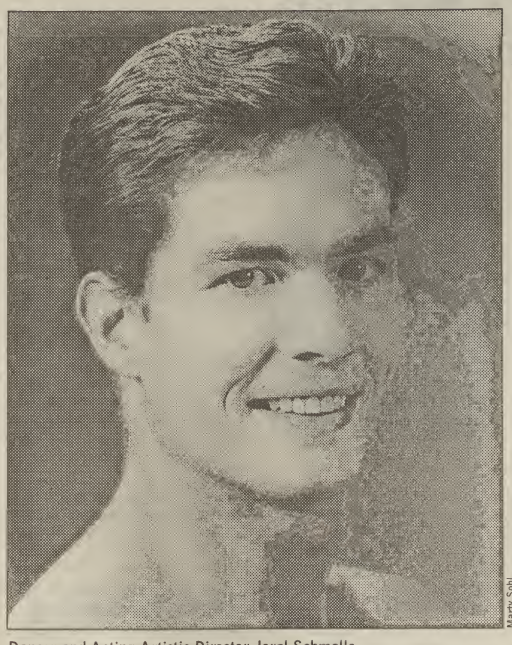
When it comes to survival, all ballet companies are not created equal. Last year, when founder and Artistic Director Ronn Guidi decided to retire from Oakland Ballet, no one knew what the future might hold. As a medium-sized troupe in a large city, frequently overshadowed by its high-profile neighbor across the Bay, the company was not necessarily guaranteed a long life span.

The Oakland Ballet is not one of the national companies which have even survived changes in government, never mind constant changes of artistic directors. With the help of government subsidies and national pride, companies such as Paris Opera Ballet, the Kirov Ballet (formerly Maryinsky under the Czar) or Great Britain's Royal Ballet are not in danger of disappearing.

Neither is Oakland a company which was formed to serve the artistic vision of a single choreographer, such as Balanchine's New York City Ballet or Martha Graham's company. Even after the creators' deaths, these companies had enough momentum and prestige to continue, though perhaps at a less brilliant level. It seemed Oakland might fall in with those companies whose driving force has left without leaving a strong successor.

But after a year at the helm, Acting Artistic Director Joral Schmalle appears to have gotten the company back on a course toward surviving and flourishing.

Begun in 1965 by Ronn Guidi to "preserve the past and create the future," and under his guiding hand for 33 years, Oakland Ballet had carved out its niche in the dance world by having one of the best historical repertories in the country. Not only had Guidi succeeded in acquiring many ballets from the Diaghilev era, such as choreographer Michel Fokine's *Schéhérazade, Les Sylphides, Le Spectre de la Rose,* and *Petroushka,* Vaslav Nijinsky's *L'Aprés-midi d'un Faune,* and Bronislava Nijinska's *Les Noces, Les Biches,* and *Bolero* (the original 1928 ballet for which Ravel wrote his famous score), but he also added significant works like Kurt Joos' *The Green Table* and Anthony Tudor's *Lilac Garden.* And mining our own rich American cultural vein, Oakland Ballet presented masterpieces such as Eugene Loring's *Billy the Kid,* José Limón's *The Moor's Pavane,* and Agnes de Mille's *Fall River Legend.*



Marty Sohl

Dancer and Acting Artistic Director Joral Schmalle

Change is good

When Guidi decided to step down last year and asked Joral Schmalle, who had danced in the company for 16 years, to become Acting Artistic Director, Oakland Ballet's fate hung in the balance. Schmalle remembers, "Of course, I said I'll take it over, but I wasn't necessarily sure at the time if there was a desire within the company, in the community, or in the dance world in general that Oakland Ballet should continue. And if there wasn't, I was committed to closing it in an honorable way and appreciating it for what it had been. I think that the world in which Oakland Ballet existed has changed, and the company hasn't changed rapidly enough to maintain its place. The way we did things in the past worked when there was a lot more funding, but funding criteria have changed, and we need to catch up."

Recruiting dancers to become directors of companies, solely on the strength of their performing careers, can be risky. The qualities that make an exceptional dancer are not necessarily the ones which will make for a discerning leader. It may still be a little early to tell, as many factors come into play in predicting the future course of a dance company, but based on my interview with Schmalle, I feel confident that he has a clear vision of what he must do to keep Oakland Ballet alive and thriving.

"Dinosaurs have taught us that if we don't adapt or evolve, we'll die out. So I want Oakland Ballet to continue evolving at the same pace as the world around it." Schmalle's plan to ensure the company's growth includes three components: community involvement, the home season and touring. As resident ballet company at the Alice Arts Center near Lake Merritt in the heart of downtown, Oakland Ballet is in the thick of the city's diverse cultural mix.

In his office after a rehearsal, Schmalle's enthusiasm for his work as director, dancer, and teacher animates his face and body. "Right now it's pretty quiet, but in the evenings, this place is really alive with energy. All kinds of music and dance, African drumming, jazz, hip hop and ballet. We are all learning to work with each other in an integrated way and are developing a program called 'Kids First.' It's generally acknowledged that every child should have some sort of physical education, whether it's baseball, basketball, swimming or soccer. There should be that same attitude toward the arts, so why not dance?

"Eventually we'd like to have a program after school from 4 to 6, where kids can try out the different styles. There is so much untapped talent here, and many of the kids would never discover ballet otherwise. We also want to do more school outreach programs. Even when our funding didn't come through, we decided to go ahead and put on the program, moving the floor and equipment ourselves in one dancer's pickup truck."

Schmalle emphasized that Oakland Ballet "need[s] to get out into the community and raise our visibility. Both our home season at the Paramount Theater and touring are really a commitment to giving people access to the ballet. And I mean that not just on the physical level of going out to schools or providing tickets for our performances, but also on an intellectual and emotional level. When I can read a little bit about a ballet before I see it, I get so much more out of the experience. And I've been going to see dance for over 25 years.

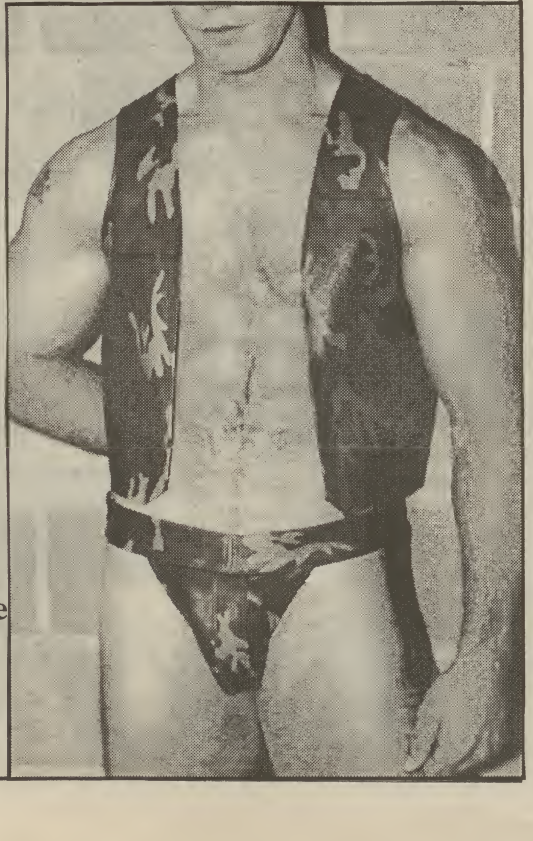
"Many people still think of ballet as an elite art form, only for the wealthy or those who have taken ballet classes. And they believe that there is no way for them to really appreciate a performance. But Oakland Ballet is trying to make ballet accessible to everyone."

Schmalle is keen to continue the tradition of revivals in the company's repertory, though "as time goes by, it's getting harder to find people who were around during the Diaghilev period. So we are also looking at American choreographers. Twenty years ago, there were many pieces that were the mainstays of other companies, but are now rarely seen. It's a wonderful opportunity to capture something that falls within what Oakland Ballet wants to do in terms of being accessible and relevant. My own background in dance emphasized the theatrical side more than the classical side, so I also tend to want to do pieces in that vein. And of course, we will continue to commission new works from Bay Area choreographers such as Val Caniparoli, Alonzo King, Betsy Erickson, Margaret Jenkins and Tandy Beal." ▼

Oakland Ballet opens its fall season at the Paramount Theater, 2025 Broadway, Oakland, Fri., Sept. 24 at 8 p.m., continuing Sat., Sept. 25 at 8 p.m. and Sun., Sept. 26 at 2 p.m. For tickets, call BASS.

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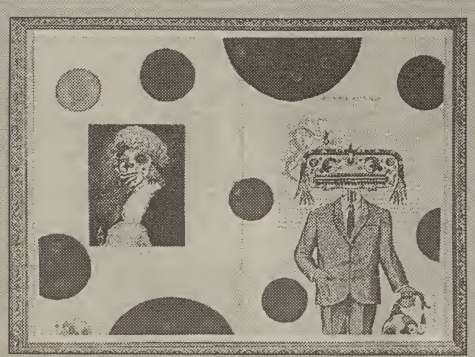
Fri 24

Women's Building
The Exiles hosts the 2nd annual "Leather Women's Meet and Greet." Come meet leather women from around the world. Entertainment includes hot striptease. Door prizes. 7:30-9:30pm. Women's Building Auditorium, 3543 18th St. (at Valencia). Info: 487-5170.

The Rotunda, City Hall
The Golden Gate Business Association celebrates 25 years with an evening of music, performances and celebration. Live auction featuring a European travel prize and much more. Awards for Community Service; Business of the Year; and Special Service to GGBA. Emceed by Robert Barnes. Production by Shane Ostone Stowe. $75. 7-10pm. Info: 441-3651.

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church
Equal Voices, a San Francisco gay men's vocal ensemble, perform "Everything Possible: Songs of Life and Love." A blend of Broadway, folk, spiritual, world and pop music. Directed by Daniel Hughes. $15 gen'l; $25 patron (including pre-show reception). 500 De Haro St. (at Mariposa). 8pm. Also on 9/25. Tix: 707-2051.

Calendare by Mark Mardon



La Coqueta, by Enrique Chagoya, 1998

Big deal art expo

It's kind of like any other "expo," held in a vast, echo-filled chamber, with row after row of booths from which vendors sell their wares, just as the computer and software manufacturers do over at Moscone Center. Only this time, the booths are situated inside the Herbst & Festival Pavilions over at Fort Mason, and the vendors aren't the marketing and technology staffers of corporations, but gallery owners and representatives, doing their best to promote their industry.

Yes, art is big business, and nowhere is this more apparent than at the **San Francisco International Art Exposition**. At this second annual event, more than 100 galleries representing 12 countries and more than 2,000 artists will hawk their wares, as well as participate in a host of special presentations and symposiums. From an opening-night gala art-previewing party hosted by and benefiting the San Francisco Art Institute (the cheapest tickets are $125 per person), to a downtown "Art Walk/Breakfast" organized by the SF Art Dealers Association in which art lovers can stroll from gallery to gallery, to a panel on "Art, Culture and Technology" moderated by SFMOMA director David A. Ross, this event is one of gigantic commercial proportions, reaching far beyond Fort Mason to encompass activities throughout the City and the Bay Area. It's not about your struggling mom-and-pop (or mom-and-mom) galleries as much as it's about making big bucks — last year's expo generated sales of some $15 million — and establishing big reputations for major galleries and the individual artists they choose to promote. It's sort of an open-air market for "A" list galleries.

You'll find works of art for sale through some of San Francisco's most prestigious art dealers, including the **Haines Gallery**, which will be exhibiting the cathode ray tube images of MIT engineer and artist Alan Rath; the **Dorothy Weiss Gallery**, which will have a collection of ceramics by several artists, most notably Rudy Autio; and **Fraenkel Gallery**, displaying a selection of its classic fine-art photographs by such big-name shutterbugs as Edward Weston, William Wegman, and Diane Arbus.

If it strikes you that a disproportionate number of the galleries represented are from Chicago, the explanation is clear: this expo is a project of Thomas Blackman Associates, producers of "Art Chicago," the windy city's big annual art event. But you'll find galleries from New York City, Moscow, Bogotá, West Islip and elsewhere.

An open-studios event this ain't. For that, just wait till Saturday, October 2, when San Francisco Open Studios — our city's very own peasant's art expo — begins it's month-long run.▼

The SF International Art Exposition will be held at Herbst and Festival Pavilions at Fort Mason Center from Thursday, September 30 — Monday, October 4. Admission is $10 ($7 students/seniors). Three-day passes are $20; five-day passes are $30. Phone (312) 587-3300 or surf www.sfiae.com.

New College Theater
"Capriccio," a play by German poet Tracy Splinter and US poets Kevin Killian and Jocelyn Saidenberg, presented by Small Press Traffic and the Goethe-Institut in conjunction with the Euro-San Francisco Poetry Festival. An international cast of divas, designers, poets, assassins, lovers, enemies, friends, detectives and socialites gather backstage moments before the curtain goes up on Richard Strauss' opera "Capriccio." The play is an affectionate, farcical salute to the international poetry community in the city of fog, sourdough bread, Language poetry, skateboards, and the inimitable Robin Williams. With a cast of local artists and writers, including Norma Cole, Kota Ezawa, Phoebe Gloeckner, Craig Goodman, Clifford Hengst, Marisa Hernandez, Scott Hewicker, Jennifer Locke, Rex Ray, Jocelyn Saidenberg, Leslie Scalapino and Wayne Smith. $5. 7:30pm. 777 Valencia St. 437-3454.

City College
Transit and Jeanne-Marie Hughes & Company present "Working/One," an evening of modern dance. Highlights include the premiers of new works by Jeanne-Marie Hughes & Company and by M. Koob for Transit. $5 (free to CCSF students w/ID). 8pm. Also on 9/25 & 26. North Gym Dance Studio, City College of San Francisco, 50 Phelan Ave. Reservations: 273-5890. $1 required parking permit can be bought at lot.

Cowell Theater
"Four Concers of Music and Dance from Bali," presented by Gamelan Sekar Jaya as the highlight of that Balinese ensemble's 20th Anniversary Festival. Featuring the world premieres of several works, with special guest performers Swapan Chaudhuri and Tabla Rasa. $18 ($16 students/seniors). 8pm. Also on 9/25 at 8pm and 9/26 at 2pm & 8pm. Fort Mason Center. Tix: 441-3687.

177 Townsend @ 3rd
"Tom's Leather Ball," a mega-leather, uniform, and fetish party sponsored by Tom of Finland Co. and James Stone. Featuring the notorious Butt Boy Contest. With DJ Julian Marsh. $25 advance; $30 door. Info: 646-0930. Tix: 1-800-494-TIXS.

Mark I. Chester studio
Opening reception: "Bad Boys on Parade," an exhibition of radical sex portraits by photographer Mark I. Chester, with readings and performances sprinkled throughout the night. With this show, Chester celebrates 20 years of documenting the gay radical sex underground in San Francisco. Donations encouraged. 8pm-1am. Also open Sat. 1-6pm and Sun. during the Folsom Street Fair, noon-6pm. 1229 Folsom St. 621-6294.

New Langton Arts
In concert: Bay Area Award Show winner Brian Reinbolt presents new interactive, algorithmic compositions using keyboards, MIDI input devices, MAX, and MSP. $8 ($6 students; seniors; members). 8pm. 1246 Folsom St. (btwn. 8th & 9th). 626-5416.

Josie's
Held over: "Hot Pants Homo," the hit coming-out comedy written and directed by F. Allen Sawyer and performed by Jason Scott Buro, Deena Davenport, Flynn DeMarco, Trauma Flintstone and Otis Morgan. $10. 8pm & 10pm. Also on 9/25. Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint, 3583 16th St. (at Market). 861-7933.

Jon Sims Center
"Bedroom Stories," actress and playwright Zina Camblin's rehearsed reading of a play-in-progress about nine young women coming to terms with their womanhood as lesbians. The play investigates their ethnic and cultural backgrounds, self-acceptance, spiritual confusion, racial stereotypes, and family abandonment. $5-$10 sliding. 8:30pm. Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519 Mission St. (at 11th). 554-0402.

Metropolitan Community Church
Red Hearts, a social function for American Indian Two Spirit people and their friends, meets tonight for a potluck party. Bring a dish to share. This is an alcohol- and drug-free event. All welcome. 7-9pm. Info: 282-4176.

New Conservatory Theatre Center
"Amphibians," written by Billy Roche, directed by Cliff Mayotte. In a close-knit fishing village in Ireland, pressured to change in the modern economy, a fisherman decides to revive a once-common rite-of-passage ritual for his teenage son, a gesture that awakens both envy and scorn in the local community. $18. 8pm. Thru Oct. 23. Tix: 861-8972.

New Conservatory Theatre Center
"Steel Kiss," written by Robin Fulford, directed by Ed Decker. Fag-bashing, roughhousing, and the bravado of teenage boys fuel this riveting Canadian play. $22. 8pm. Thru Oct. 30. Tix: 861-8972.

ODC Theater
The Huckabay McAllister Dance company performs "Menage a Cinq," a full evening of original dances featuring performers Chris Black, Kevin Clarke, Knute, Blane Ashby, Steve Berry, Lucy Epstein, Jenny McAllister, Justin Neal, Jody Rappaport, Erin Mei-Ling Stuart and Jennifer Taher. $12. 8pm. Also on 9/ 25. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). 863-9834.

Venue 9
Footloose presents "David's Red-haired Death," by Sherry Kramer. It breaks in on the story of Jean and Marilyn, strangely sororal lovers, thrusting them from their romantic utopia. It shatters people's perception of fate, french fries, and the "fairer" sex. Produced by Women In Time Productions. Directed by Sacha Reigh. Featuring Janis DeLucia and Kathryn Wood. $10-$15 sliding. 8pm. Thru Oct. 16. 252 Ninth St. (at Folsom). 289-2000.

Sat 25

Phoenix Hotel
"Folsom/SPLASH/SF" pool party and outdoor dance. Experience some 700 men sunning in their swim trunks around an urban pool, mingling and dancing to the sounds of DJ Jamie J. $12 door. 601 Eddy St. (at Larkin). 674-1214.

{ fo ur wall s
Opening reception: The Flexible Density of Time," a group show curated by Corrina Peipon. The artists work in mediums that require a formal and conceptual consideration of time: video, sculpture, and photography. Free. 4-8pm. 3160-A 16th St. 626-8515.

ATA Gallery
Other Cinema presents the experimental film of Gustav Deutsch, "Film is" (Austria, 1998), consisting almost entirely of excerpts from various sceintific and educational films, with scenes of pigeons in flight, the intelligence testing of apes, paper projectiles penetrating bubbles, and bullets passing through ostrich eggs. Plus other shorts. $5. 8:30pm. 992 Valencia St. 824-3890.



Mark I. Chester

Leather men in all their diversity are celebrated in Mark I Chester's photo exhibition. See Friday. Pictured: Bob/Yehuda.

MACT Citihike
Men of All Colors Together meet to explore "The Ups & Downs of Haight Street." For the fit and fit-aspiring. Free. Depart promptly at 11am. Assemble at Starbucks at Church & Market streets. Info: 675-0201.

Sun 26

Folsom Street Fair
"Consent," the culminating event of this year's Leather Pride Week. Join many thousands in exploring the limits of safe, sane, consensual public displays of leather, skin, and affection. Dress in your best leather/fetish wear, and parade your style for all to admire. 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Folsom St. btwn. 12th and 7th streets. Donations at the gate support Frameline, New Leaf, the Positive Resource Center, Project Inform, Project Open Hand, The Stop AIDS Project, and the Community Center Project of San Francisco. Info: www.folsomstreet-fair.com or 861-3247.

SF Hiking Club
Join other outdoor lovers for a Woodward Valley Loop Hike in Pt. Reyes, encompassing views of the hills and ocean. It's a moderate 12-mile hike with a 1,200 ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the big Safeway sign at



Equal Voices, the gay men's ensemble, perform at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church. See Friday.

Market & Dolores St. Carpool cost is $17, to be shared among passengers. Club info: 487-6410.

Golden Gate Park

"Now & Zen Fest," featuring singer/songwriter Jewel, plus the bands Cake, Old 97's, Fleming & John, and Scrotum Pole. Presented by the radio program Alice @ 97.3. $15. Gates open 11am; performances start at noon. Sharon Meadow. Tix at all BASS outlets.

Grace Cathedral

"Music for Elizabeth I and Beyond," featuring The Whole Noyse ensemble. Renaissance music from the court of Elizabeth I, as well as popular English ballads from the 17th century. Presented by the SF Early Music Society. $19 & $22. 5:30pm. Grace Cathedral Chapel, 1100 California St. Tix: (510) 528-1725.

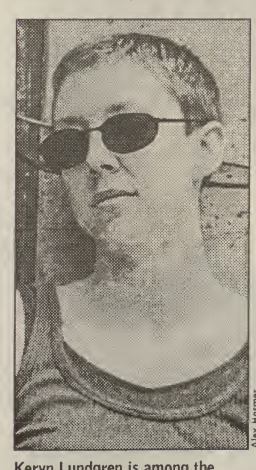
A Different Light

Two events. First, at 3:30pm. Joanie Erikson & Jeannine Cogan read from *Lesbians, Levis and Lipstick: The Meaning of Beauty in Our Lives*. Second, at 7:30pm, John Rechy reads from *The Coming of Night*, a novel set in Santa Ana on a summer night in 1981, when a group of men are about to partake in an unscripted ritual. Free. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Mon 27

Theater Artaud

Opening night gala: "My Eyes Have Their Own Life — Celebrating Our Self-Determination," a benefit for the Women's Community Clinic, produced and presented by Sylvia Eowyn Bloom and Nancy Dobbs Owen. Featuring a collaboration of innovative dance and 20th century classical music. Choreography by Michael Kruzich and Robin Kurland. With special guest violinist Hank Dutt (Kronos Quartet).



Alex Hosmer

Keryn Lundgren is among the dancers in *Working/One* at City College. See Friday.

Keynote address by State Senator Jackie Speier. Silent auction. $50-$100. 7pm. (Performance only repeats tomorrow, 2/28; $10; 8pm). 450 Florida St. Tix: 621-7797 or BASS.

Noh Space

Theatre of Yugen presents "Elektra Rok," a boundary-blurring performance piece created by writer/director Dana Edell and Indo-Trance musician Srinivas Reddy. They confront the timeless eruptions of violence by youth by weaving the energy and rhythm of a rock show into the colorful palettes of Greek Mythology. The surreal production draws inspiration from comic books, popular culture, drag queens, 80s movies and the punk movement. By delving inside musical styles from punk rock to country to new-age trance, the Elektra Rok players find new ways to tell a story. $8.50-$12. 8pm. Also on 9/28. 2840 mariposa St. at Project Artaud (btwn. Florida & Alabama streets). 621-7978.

Josie's

"Open Mic Gay Comedy" continues with comic host Marilyn Pittman. $5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Cabel Reef, Oakland

Male erotic dancers every Monday night at 10:30pm sharp, featuring Quiet Storm, Dick 'm' Down, Bam Bam, Ice Man, and special guest porn stars Ty Lattimore and Onyx. "Bring your friend and some dollar bills and enjoy some nice Black, tight, round ass." Everyone invited, all colors, races, genders. $4 cover. 2272 Telegraph Ave. Info: (510) 451-3777.

Tue 28

El Rio

Closing night: "MadCat Women's Int'l Film Festival," screening the satirical punk feminist sci-fi slapstick thriller "Born in Flames," directed by Lizzie Borden. Plus the claymation film short "King of the Castle," directed by Jacqueline Matisse. $5. Doors open at 7pm for a free omnivore barbecue. Screening at sunset (about 8:30pm), followed by music. 3158 Mission St. (at Precita). Info: 436-9523.

The Plush Room

Hot young crooner Tom Postilio returns for a limited run. 8pm. (8pm & 10:30pm Sat.). Thru. Oct. 2. The York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. 885-2800.

Intersection for the Arts

"September Critical III," a series of debates about the arts. Tonight: "Artists on the Line," exploring the artistry of dissent, examining the difference between works of the imagination and works drawn from lived experience. Moderated by Nola Mariano. Donation suggested. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. 626-2787.

Park Branch Library

Booksmith presents legendary actress Gloria Stuart in person, reading from and discussion her candid new memoir, *Gloria Stuart: I Just Kept Hoping*. Since 1932, Stuart has appeared in 46 films, including *Titanic* in 1997, for which she was nominated for an Academy Award. Free. 7pm. 1833 Page St. Info: 863-8688.

Wed 29

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

"Back to School Night/Catalog Release Party" for the Harvey Milk Institute. Mingle with students, faculty, staff and others. With performances by comedian Karen Ripley and the HMI Improv Troupe. Register here for classes. Light refreshments. $10-$20 suggested donation (NOTAFLOF). 7-9:30pm. 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). *No reservations required. Info:* 552-7200.

ATA Gallery

Queer Odd Wednesdays at ATA presents "Boys' Shorts," showcasing six gay film shorts, including *Resonance, RSVP, Anthem, Relax, Billy Turner's Secret,* and *The Dead Boys Club*. Open screen follows, inviting works in progress or those which challenge mainstream media. $5. 8pm. Artists Television Access, 992 Valencia (at 21st). Info: 824-3890.

A Different Light

"Sexually Speaking: A Discussion about Gore Vidal," reviewing his latest collection of essays from Cleis Press. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Thu 30

Transmission Theater

"Cyberotica!" The Tuck & Roll Players present this low-tech rock musical about a high-tech world. Created and produced by Peter Fogel; written & directed by Kelly Kittell; musical direction by Birdie-Bob Watt; choreography by Jean Spinosa. Featuring Arturo Galster, Leigh Crow, Pippi Lovestocking; Johnny Kat; and others. $10. 9pm. Thurs. thru Oct. 28. 314 Eleventh St. (at Folsom).

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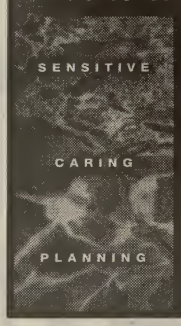


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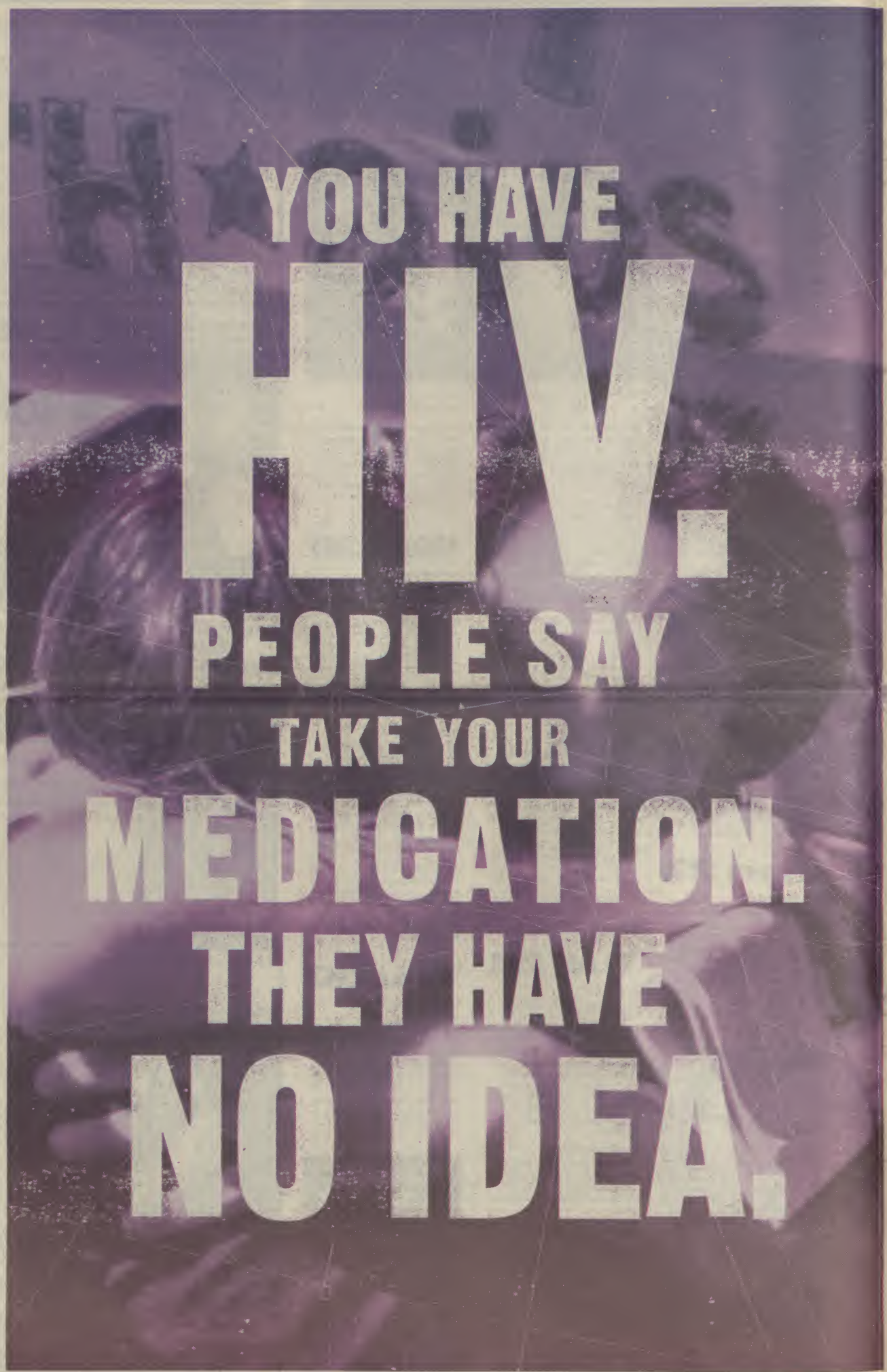
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Our new protease inhibitor is called Agenerase™ (amprenavir). It can be taken with or without food, so you can eat when you want to eat. (Just be sure to avoid taking Agenerase with a high-fat meal.) Take it twice a day, in the morning and evening. It stays in your system all day.

Agenerase in combination with other antiviral medicines is for the treatment of HIV infection. This use is based on 24-week studies of its effects on viral load and CD4 cell counts.

Of course, Agenerase is not perfect.

Agenerase is not a cure and has not been shown to prevent transmission of HIV infection. At this time, it is not known whether taking Agenerase will slow the progress of HIV disease or help you live longer.

We know side effects are a major concern for people taking protease inhibitors. In clinical trials Agenerase was generally well tolerated. But there were side effects associated with the drug. The most common side effects with Agenerase are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, and a tingling sensation around the mouth. If these side effects occur, they are usually mild to moderate and tend to *stop after a few weeks of treatment.*

You should know that high blood sugar, shifts in location of body fat, and a certain type of anemia have been seen in patients taking protease inhibitors, including Agenerase. Serious and/or life-threatening drug interactions and skin reactions have also been seen in patients taking Agenerase.

See important information for patients on next page.

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VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS

Agenerase™
amprenavir

PATIENT INFORMATION

Agenerase™
amprenavir 150 mg capsules

AGENERASE™ (amprenavir) Capsules
AGENERASE™ (amprenavir) Oral Solution

Please read this information before you start taking AGENERASE (pronounced ah-GEN-er-ase), and re-read it each time you receive your prescription, just in case something has changed. Remember that this information does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor when you start this medication and at checkups. You should not change or stop your anti-HIV treatment without first talking with your doctor. **You should tell your doctor about any drug you are taking or planning to take because taking AGENERASE with some medications can result in serious or life-threatening problems.**

What is AGENERASE?
AGENERASE is a medication used to treat HIV infection. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). AGENERASE is taken by mouth as a soft gel capsule or oral solution. It belongs to a class of anti-HIV medicines called protease inhibitors.

How does AGENERASE work?
AGENERASE is used only in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. When used in combination therapy, AGENERASE may help lower the amount of HIV found in your blood, raise CD4 (T) cell count, and keep your immune system as healthy as possible so that it can help fight infection. However, AGENERASE does not have these effects in all patients.

What are the side effects of AGENERASE?
Common side effects of AGENERASE are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, and a tingling sensation around the mouth. Severe or life-threatening rash has been reported.

Contact your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these symptoms. Your doctor will advise you whether your symptoms can be managed on therapy or whether AGENERASE should be stopped.

This list of side effects is not complete. Your doctor or pharmacist can discuss with you a more complete list of possible side effects with AGENERASE. Talk to your doctor promptly about any side effects you have.

How should I take AGENERASE?
Take AGENERASE exactly as your doctor prescribes it. The usual dosage for adults and adolescents (at least 13 years of age) is eight 150-mg soft gel capsules twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.

AGENERASE can be taken with or without food. However, you should not take AGENERASE with a high-fat meal because this could reduce the effectiveness of AGENERASE.

What should I do if I miss a dose of AGENERASE?
To help make sure that your anti-HIV therapy is as effective as possible, be very careful to take all of your medication exactly as your doctor prescribed it and do not skip any doses.

If you miss a dose of AGENERASE by more than 4 hours, wait and take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time. However, if you miss a dose by fewer than 4 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of AGENERASE at any one time.

When your supply of AGENERASE or other anti-HIV drugs starts to run low, arrange to get more from your doctor or pharmacy. It is very important that you take anti-HIV drugs as prescribed by your doctor because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if one or more of the drugs is stopped, even for a short time.

Can AGENERASE be taken with other medications?
Protease inhibitors, including AGENERASE, may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. Before you take AGENERASE, tell your doctor about any drugs that you are taking or planning to take including non-prescription drugs.

- **You should not take any of the following medications with AGENERASE because serious or life-threatening problems could occur.***

Halcion® (triazolam)	Propulsid® (cisapride)
Hismanal® (astemizole)	Versed® (midazolam)
Ergot medications (Cafergot® and others)	Vascor® (bepridil)

- **You should also not take rifampin** with AGENERASE because this drug reduces the effectiveness of AGENERASE. Rifampin is also known as: Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, and Rimactane®.

- **Serious and/or life-threatening drug interactions can also occur if you take AGENERASE with any of the following drugs.*** If you need to take any of these drugs, your doctor may closely monitor the amount of drug in your blood to minimize potential problems.
  Cordarone® (amiodarone)
  Phenobarbital
  Dilantin® (phenytoin)
  Lidocaine
  Coumadin® (warfarin)
  (quinidine) Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®
  Antidepressants such as Elavil® (amitriptyline), Norpramin® (desipramine), Pamelor® (nortriptyline), Tofranil® (imipramine)

- Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with AGENERASE, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and AGENERASE together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you use birth control pills, talk to your doctor about choosing a different type of contraceptive, since AGENERASE may reduce the effectiveness of some birth control pills.

- Because AGENERASE Capsules and Oral Solution contain large amounts of vitamin E, you should not take additional vitamin E while taking AGENERASE.

- **Special considerations:***
  If you take AGENERASE with Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.
  If you take AGENERASE with Videx® (didanosine, ddI), take them at least 1 hour apart.
  If you take AGENERASE with antacids, take them at least 1 hour apart.

Does AGENERASE cure HIV infection or AIDS?
AGENERASE does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. At this time we do not know if AGENERASE will help you live longer or have fewer of the medical problems (opportunistic infections) that are associated with HIV infection or AIDS. Because of this, you must be sure to be seen regularly by your healthcare professional.

Does AGENERASE reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?
No. AGENERASE, as well as other anti-HIV medications, has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take AGENERASE?
Do not take AGENERASE if you have had a serious allergic reaction to AGENERASE or any of its ingredients. If you have liver disease, your dosage of AGENERASE may have to be adjusted.

If you are allergic to sulfa drugs, you should inform your doctor.

Can children take AGENERASE?
Children from 4 to 12 years of age can also take AGENERASE. Your doctor will tell you if the oral solution or capsule is best for your child. Your child's doctor will decide the right dose based on your child's weight and age. AGENERASE has not been studied in children under 4 years of age.

Can pregnant women and nursing mothers take AGENERASE?
AGENERASE has not been studied in pregnant women and the risk to the unborn child is not known. Talk to your doctor if you are pregnant or if you become pregnant while taking AGENERASE.

Mothers with HIV should not breastfeed their infants because HIV in the breast milk can infect the infant.

What other medical conditions should I discuss with my doctor?
Talk to your doctor if you are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking AGENERASE.

Also talk to your doctor if you have hemophilia or problems with your liver.

How should I store AGENERASE Capsules and Oral Solution?
AGENERASE Capsules and Oral Solution should be stored at room temperature and should not be refrigerated.

Other information:
This medication is prescribed for a particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep AGENERASE and all medicines out of the reach of children.

Ask a healthcare professional any questions you may have about AGENERASE.

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June 1999 RL-723

Love letters straight from the heart

by Dan Blue

Dear Juliette: Letters of May Sarton to Juliette Huxley selected, edited, and introduced by Susan Sherman; foreword by Francis Huxley; W.W. Norton & Company, $29.95

May Sarton is best known as the author of over 30 volumes of poems, fiction, and reminiscences. To many readers she seemed almost a personal friend. She was not a saint — she could fly off the handle in an instant — but she spoke her mind resonantly and offered a model of integrity. Others might hop onto critical bandwagons, but she held to her own high, solitary values. An open lesbian well before Stonewall, she never ceased to develop as a woman, artist, and human being.

Sarton was not always such a lonely elder. In the 1930s, as an unseasoned twentysomething, she met the celebrated Julian Huxley (brother of Aldous) and his wife Juliette, and had affairs with them both. This *menage-a-trois* was understandably exhausting, particularly as Julian did not know about May and Juliette. Yet it permanently transformed Sarton. The romance with Julian did not last, but her love for Juliette was to nourish her for the rest of her life.

In *Dear Juliette: Letters of May Sarton to Juliette Huxley,* Sarton records that relationship's development over nearly 60 years. Juliette could not respond as May wished, and what might have been a romantic idyll became a course in how to build human relationships. "All my life," wrote Sarton, "I have been learning slowly how to deal with passion and how to love people better, to build and not to destroy." In *Dear Juliette,* we watch her struggle to meet that ideal, to get through the dark places without letting disappointment wreck something she treasured.

Although Sarton depicts herself as an ingenue, portraits made at the time bring out her broad eyes, long nose and undershot jaw. She looks extremely aggressive, a huntress. All that energy needed guidance, and when the 24-year-old fell for the much older Huxleys (he was 50 at the time, Juliette 40), it was partly because she admired them as a family. "You bring me children and grandchildren..., all a woman's life, and so much more," she wrote to Juliette. Later, more simply, she stated, "I fell in love with a marriage."

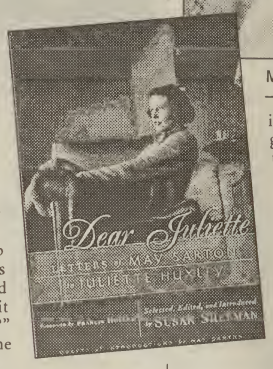


Crosby Studio

May Sarton in 1939

Passion flowers

Physical intimacy ensued. Such occasions were few, but they induced in Sarton a lyric delicacy which transfigured everything around her. "I am still full of those stars which you sowed so prodigally last night," she writes after one encounter. "How deep the heart is opened and how will it ever close?" Even as she celebrated intimacy, Sarton was aware of its dark side. "Passion," she wrote, "is so exclusive and violent. It closes out the world."



Her fears proved well-founded. The intensity of Sarton's desire so frightened Juliette (who identified as straight) that she backed away, badly hurting Sarton. When the latter countered, threatening to tell Julian of the affair, Juliette did what May feared most. She ended contact, not writing for nearly 30 years and meeting only at tea when the oblivious Julian was present.

Few of Sarton's letters from this period survive — Juliette burned them — but enough remain for us to glimpse her terror, rage, and despair. "What is awful is that I have lost all faith in myself," she writes. "I don't see what I am going to do or be anymore." Nor did the famous consolations of time appease. "There is a common myth that time heals," she writes. "I have never found it so, not in real things. One buries it finally, but it is buried alive."

For all her anguish, Sarton held to her love for Juliette, using it as a light to navigate past despair into understanding and forgiveness. The key for her was not to retreat but to enter the heart more vulnerably and come out on the other side. She took that disappointed affection and, like a cutting removed from the original plant, persuaded it to sink new roots in other lovers, friends, and work.

Sarton and Huxley did not resume contact until 1976 when, after Julian's death, they began a guarded but genuine correspondence. May remained lonely and sad: "The flowers and the animals keep me alive. But I am really starving, just the same." Nonetheless, she brightened when Juliette returned her letters, poring over them with the same amazement that the reader will bring to them now. "On every page what they show is true love," she writes, "love that entered into and at least tried to share the other person's life and needs."

Juliette died in September 1994, Sarton 10 months later, in July 1995. Until the end they remained in contact, allowing Sarton to sustain her belief that "All personal relations depend so much on patience, on living through the deep places, the bored places, the dark places together." In *Dear Juliette,* we see how Sarton maintained that continuity and created a life through the management of love. ▼

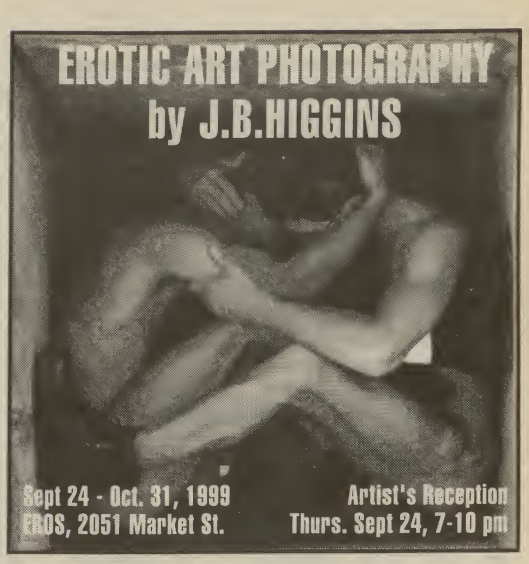
Teenager in a quandary

by Deborah Peifer

One of our Own by Diane Salvatore; Naiad, $11.95

Diane Salvatore's newest Naiad novel is a stunner. *One of our Own* is a novel about which the phrase "ripped from today's headlines" would be both entirely appropriate and absolutely positive. Lela Johns teaches English in a small-town high school, a job she hates, but it pays the rent while she finishes her doctoral dissertation. Lela's been shut down emotionally since she was a teenager, since the day that her one true love committed suicide. The problem, of course, with teaching high school is that remoteness in a teacher is regarded by the students as exotic and desirable. Carla Matson is sure the icily correct Ms. Johns is just the person with whom to share her newly discovered sexual identity. A teenager in a quandary would be a problem for Lela anytime, but this particular high school operates under policy 6540, which forbids any remarks that could be construed as supportive of homosexuality. Simply saying to Carla, "You're not the only one," could cost Lela her job, indeed any future at all in teaching. And if she were to come out, well, you can just imagine. Faced with a desperate child, however, Lela has to face her own fears and put someone else first.

Salvatore does an extraordinary job of capturing teenage angst, both in the main plot and in the flashbacks that reveal just how Lela got to be frozen inside. She handles those movements in time with real skill. Salvatore's characters are vibrantly alive. You'll find yourself caring about them a great deal. Her depiction of the zealotry of the far right is powerfully and painfully real, even as she avoids obvious right-bashing stereotypes. *One of our Own* should be required reading for anyone who thinks that everything would be just dandy if only the queers would just keep quiet. For the rest of us, this is an entertaining, frightening and thought-provoking novel. ▼









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Mister Marcus

◀ page 1

that Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt was right out there at the front again, having garnered more than $1,000 in pledges. Bravo Sandy!

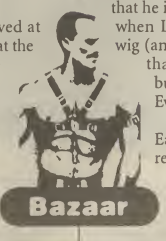
Apart from all the volunteers who helped put the events together, a lot of thanks and praise is due Grant Dupont for his leadership. His efficiency in coordinating volunteer efforts was the key to making everything happen smoothly.

It was the little things that made the annual Leather Pride Walk another smashing success. A stunning commemorative pin, for instance, and an efficient registration table, and some handsome flag bearers. All were met with the approving eye of Art Tomaszewski, who started it all some eight years ago.

It was mostly, but not entirely, a leather crowd that turned out. Hey, even Emperor TJ and Empress Sheba were there, and so were the newly-elected Grand Duchess China Silk and Grand Duke Michael Parsons! So the Royal Court was represented along with leather – a community effort, indeed.

When the walk arrived at the Eagle, after pit stops at the Loading Dock and the Powerhouse (thanks guys at both bars!), there was another generous mob on hand waiting for the Bare Chest Calendar auction to begin, and the marchers received a standing ovation.

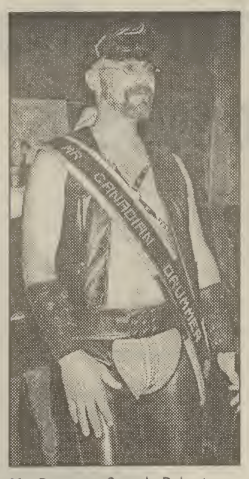
It was one of those glorious days in San Francisco where everything worked. Lenny Broberg was flawless as the auctioneer, and this time his Vanna White was none other than Keith Truitt. Now, being the good sport that he is, Keith barely flinched when Lenny draped a blond wig (and a rather tacky one at that) on Keith's noggin, but it was all in good fun. Everybody loved it.



The crowd at the Eagle was generous and receptive, and again volunteers made the day. The calendar boys suffered minor indignities at the hands of Lenny, but again, it was all in good fun. Jerry Roberts is another unsung hero who deserves every accolade imaginable for his efforts in producing this project. It saw lots of bare skin, lots of bananas, maraschino cherries, laughs galore, and a profitable day for the beneficiaries.



Mr. Drummer Europe Rob Scheers is expected to compete Saturday for the Int'l Mr. Drummer title.



Mr. Drummer Canada Robert Port of Vancouver will compete for the Int'l Mr. Drummer title this Saturday, Sept. 25.

Let the fair begin!

The Leather Pride Walk served as a fitting kickoff to Leather Pride Week. The madness continues through this Sunday with the Folsom Street Fair. Have you noticed the Leather Pride flags on all the street poles on Folsom? The City Fathers know what a financial boon the fair is, so they were not adverse to shelling out a few thousand dollars for the banners.

Paul Lester and the SMMILE board of directors are on target. All is in readiness for the 400,000 or so leather and admirers of leather who will converge for a day of hedonism, just a few days after the Fall Equinox. And almost 500 volunteers are ready to go, many of them from around the country. This coming Sunday, at around 0500 hours in the morning (when many of you will still be out partying), the unsung heroes will be setting up booths, fences and stages, trash cans and Portapotties. Tons of ice and thousands of cases of beer will be hauled in and readied, and booths with merchandise will be set up, including clothing and art, as well as a few for demonstrations.

Several stages will be erected and dance areas arranged, catering to every musical taste. Every conceivable political and charitable institution will be represented. The "media" from England, France, Japan, Germany, and Australia are among the many news seekers that will cover the event. No telling who will capture you on film, a digital or video camera. And sure, you'll be asked for an entry fee, but it's a mere pittance for what you will enjoy between 7th and 12th streets. Last year, SMMILE was able to donate $165,000 to beneficiaries. If Paul Lester and SMMILE have their way, that amount will be well exceeded this year.

So get out there and have fun. Be kind to our visitors and guests and enjoy the day. It only comes once a year!

Drummers compete

While all this is going on, ten Drummer men and six Drummer boys from around the country and Canada slipped into town to compete for the coveted International Mr. Drummer contest taking place on Saturday afternoon. At my deadline, it was not confirmed whether Mr. Drummer Europe would compete or not. The judges are here already, the show is in rehearsal, and by 2000 hours on Saturday night, we'll have two new leather icons. The line-up looks good, and the show under the direction of Jeff Tucker of San Jose should be a winner.

Tomorrow night, during SMMILE's press party at the Powerhouse, International Mr. Drummer Hervé Bernard will be formally inducted as an associate member into the Men of Discipline. After the press party, where all the known current leather title holders will be introduced (in between the launching of the 2000 Bare Chest Calendar), be sure to attend the roast of Hervé and Drummer Boy Ryan Goldner at the Eagle. It should be a hoot of a night! ▼

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, September 23

SF Leather Daddies stage an art auction at the Eagle to benefit the AEF from 2000-2300 with a beer bust and a lot of original art.

The Sling hosts a cigar party with doors open from 2200 to 0100 with a $12 admission fee. For details call 2292-3275 or click on www.theslingsf.com.

Weekend, September 24-26

The Janus Society celebrates its 25th birthday with a myriad of events at the Ramada Plaza Hotel. Alan Selby the keynote speaker.

Friday, September 24

SMMILE Press Party at the Powerhouse, 1900-2100. Meet all the big kahunas of leather, the calendar men, and the Men of Discipline. Immediately following is the Bit Tits/Big Nips party until closing, while everyone hightails it to the Eagle for the Drummer Last Supper where roasting of Hervé and Ryan will take place.

The Exiles host a meet 'n Greet for women and their MTF friends at the Women's Bldg. from 1930-2130.

Jito Presents LINK — men in uniform dance party at Club 550 (550 Barneveld)

Saturday, September 25

Leather cruise on the Bay hosted by IMSL Pam Meyer, IML Bruce Chopnik, IMD Hervé Bernard and IMDB Ryan Goldner, from 1030 to 1400.

International Mr. Drummer & Drummer Boy contests at 1400. Victory party at Daddy's afterwards.

Pegasus MOC traipses off on their bikes to Occidental. Call 553-3927 for departure time and details.

Sunday, September 26

First function of this day begins at 0400 with Jito's "Magnitude" cha cha party at the Galleria.

At 1100, the gates open on Folsom Street between 7th and 12th for the 16th Annual Folsom Street Fair. Meet all the current leather title holders on the 12th Street Stage at 1300. Have fun!

After the fair, the Real Bad Dance Party from 1900-0400 at 1015 Folsom St. Exhausted yet?

Monday, September 27

Pam Meyer offers a chance to relax and recoup with the Twilight Cruise of the Bay from 1800-2100, for $75. Call 436-0140.

Saturday, October 2

Mr. Triple R Leather contest in Guerneville.

Pennies from heaven

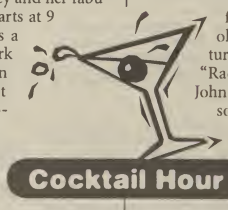
by Sweet Lips

Pine Street Volunteers present the Out of the Closet Sale, David Slocombe's annual Every Penny Counts fundraiser benefiting the AIDS Emergency Fund, on the corner of Pine and Leavenworth Streets, Saturday, Oct. 9 and Sunday, October 10, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weather permitting. Hundreds of household treasures are up for grabs (to donate, call David at 775-9145) — so don't miss it. Bring your penny collection and feel good about helping with our fight against AIDS.

The Last Faggalive, Michael Greer's newest comedy special, is now being filmed at the Rock Garden Club in Palm Springs, and from what I have heard from Michael, it is going to be spectacular. More will be revealed later.

Did you know that Hal Call was 82 last Monday?

The 1100 Club at Polk & Post will be celebrating DJ Domingo's 36th birthday on Friday, Sept. 24, with go-go boys, male strippers, and a potluck. The show, hosted by Grizzilla Presley and her fabulous showgirls, starts at 9 p.m. Domingo is a talented New York DJ, so come on down for a great time. Info: 863-1393.



Thank you, chef Dennis "Paté 'n' Putty" Tyler, for the sensational Continental Breakfast you served up for my friend Ray McWade from Seattle.

Hey big guys, don't forget that Jerry Olsen runs one of the most popular bars South of Market, the Lone Star Saloon, featuring some hunky bartenders. A great place to work on your beer belly.

Pardon my French dept.: More great news about the new Club *Rendez-Vous,* which is shaping up rather nicely and is on target for an autumn opening. *Monsieur* David Kapp has scored a *coup de maitre* by getting his former staff of the old Rendezvous to return to the fold. Richard "Rachel" Kuttner and John "Boom Boom" Pearson will be among the old stand-bys reunited with Ronnie Lynn, L. James and the gang. *J'ai vendu la meche!* It will be like old times in the new millennium on *la rue de Polk.* Watch your mailbox next week for their first announcement. If you don't receive the mailer, call the Club Line at 673-7934, or e-mail ClubRendezVous@AOL.com to be sure you are on the list *Mon Dieu!* ▼

Marky Mark

◀ *Arts cover*

praise from the likes of Robert De Niro and Oliver Stone. The story is made even more interesting by the fact that Wahlberg rose to fame despite the fact that he was a high school dropout and an ex-con.

New kid

Sanello's biography is a chatty, gossipy and entertaining rendition of how Marky Mark begot Mark Wahlberg. He begins by describing Wahlberg's less-than-stellar working-class beginnings in Boston, his run-ins with the law, and his early life in the shadow of his famous brother, Donnie Wahlberg of "New Kids on the Block" fame. Engaging in the kind of pop psychology that we've come to expect from such celebrity biographies, Sanello attempts to offer insight into how Marky Mark came into being and morphed into something more than a pants-dropping rap star.

Sanello devotes considerable attention to Mark Wahlberg's relationship with his family, particularly his mother and his older brother Donnie. He paints the picture of a family that has remained close despite the enormous stresses it faced as a result of a divorce and the rapid rise to fame of two of its sons. Sanello makes ample use of personal interviews and previously published biographical material about the Wahlbergs to illustrate how Marky Mark came to be. There's something almost refreshing about Sanello's inclusion of Wahlberg's self-analysis. Wahlberg talks about himself, his career, and his family in the language of an "everyday Joe."

Don't Call Me Marky Mark is not a probing, serious biography — though Sanello's language sometimes indicates that he's trying to produce just that — for example, he begins one chapter with, "Mark looked at his life in 1990, saw a precipice in front of himself, and stepped back from it." Is this Sanello's mock-heroic take on the tired genre of pop star biography (he's written more than a few), or a genuine attempt to present a studied portrait of the blue-collar Boston boy who made it big? Whatever the case, the book presents numerous payoffs for those who were ever intrigued by any one of Wahlberg's incarnations.

Sanello details some of the famous tiffs that Wahlberg had with other celebrities (Madonna, Calvin Klein, *et al*) over the years. He also examines Wahlberg's homophobic and racist tendencies and his attempts to make amends for statements and actions that got him into trouble with certain ethnic groups and the gay community. Sanello devotes considerable space to discussing Wahlberg's appeal to gay men, and includes comments from several male admirers, including those who see the star regularly at the West Hollywood gym where he works out. There's one particularly funny and surreal description of a Wahlberg appearance at a Los Angeles bookstore in which wide-eyed teenage girls and thirtysomething gay men compete for a chance to meet the star.

And yes, there are pictures. The book includes an enticing selection of color photos from Wahlberg's career, including a now infamous shot of the performer grabbing the crotch of his snug Calvin Klein underwear. The Mark Wahlberg of *Boogie Nights* does seem to have come a long way from the bare-it-all rap star he once was. *Don't Call Me Marky Mark* is a fun look at how it all happened. ▼



W. Stambler/Sygma

Marky Mark in a feisty moment

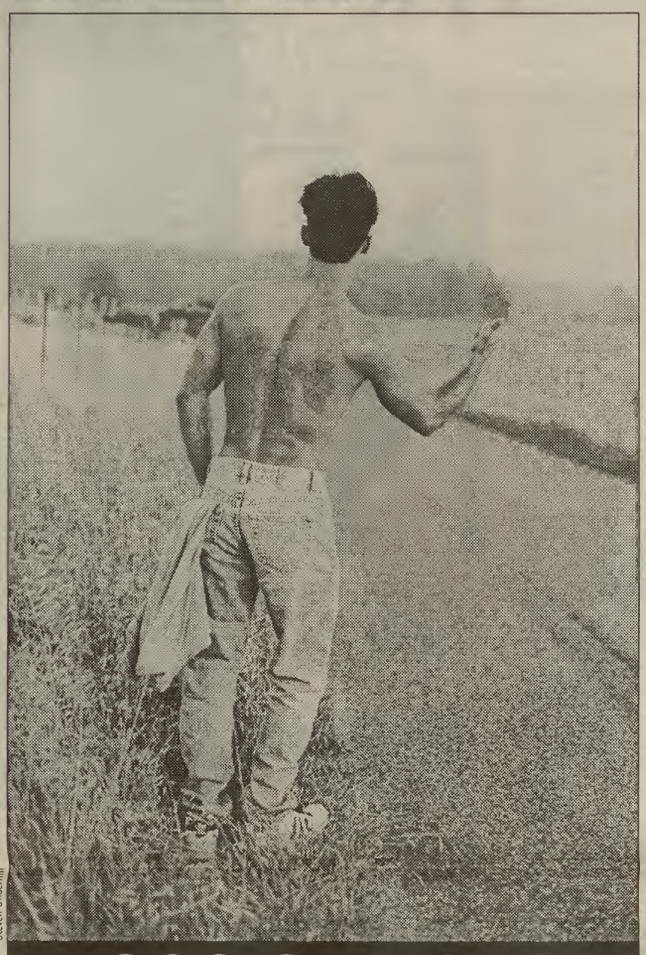
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Steven Underhill

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Only 98¢ per minute to respond to ads!

Available only on touch-tone phones in the Bay Area. You must be at least 18 years old to call.

PARTING GLANCES

Pablo, Pablo, Pablo
Met you at the "place" 8/17 stared at you, kissed you, took you home and loved your beautiful self. It's James, you have the #. ☎ 9102

Ken With The Smiling Eyes
Another conceit is that we meet again. Dinner? John ☎ 9300

RSVP/ Giants Event
Our eyes kept connecting at the Sheriffs RSVP event. Me: GAM at press mtg. You: Deputy in uniform. Let's talk. ☎ 9400

Muni Bus 45 8/11
6pm, you: Asian sitting in the back, me with 2 friends getting off on Stockton. Our eyes caught each other. I would like to introduce myself. ☎ 9101

Just Do It
Waterfront Muni, Sun 8/22, you: grey hair, nike shirt. Me: brn hair, mustache. You said, "great day" as you left. Let's continue the conversation. ☎ 9100

Cute Blonde Mkt St Gym 8/16
Saw you in gym and in locker room around 4:00pm. We smiled at each other. Me shaved head, goatee (beard), tatoos, very attracted to you. Hope to see you again. ☎ 9104

Your Briefs Caught My Eye
City Hall; late afternoon. You had just fallen down all those stairs and was being lead into ambulance by paramedics. I was cute lawyer. Gave you my card. Did you smile? I sure did! Interested? ☎ 9103

Bay Bridge Fri 8-13 5pm
U dark wavy hair BMW, me brown hair SAAB conv. Our eyes met, would like to talk. Plz call. ☎ 9105

Bear Woofs Bear At SFO
You: Big bear moving through United Terminal on 9/6 about 4:30pm. Me: tall, glasses, goatee. Your friend told me to behave myself. Are you local? ☎ 9403

Pasta Pomodoro Sun Eve 8/22/99
You: The biggest, most beautiful black bodybuilder I've ever seen. I wanted to speak to you but you were with someone. Let's talk. ☎ 9200

18th & Castro Thru 8/26 2pm
Me, blue shirt, glasses, trim build, going to Different Light. I said it was uncomfortably hot in shirt; You said, "take it off!"You continued on 18th. ☎ 9201

Pittsburgh Bart Sat 8/21 3:30pm
We sat across from each other and said "Hi!". You: Handsome, wearing shorts with great legs. Me: Beard, buzz-cut, t-top, shorts, husky, nothing ventured, nothing gained. Please call Roger. ☎ 9202

Pine St. Post Office- Sat 8/21
I was behind you in line. We joked about how long it was taking. You had on a white tank top and shorts. I was in total "awe....." Dinner? ☎ 9203

"Edge Of 17" Grand Open Lumiere
You were with friend? Sitting on end row. Me: Gay Eurasian male sitting 1 row back. Eye contact made. Let's chat. ☎ 9401

White Rav4 w/Rainbow Paw Stckr
Heading East on Bay Bridge Tuesday, Sept. 7. You are handsome in your blonde beard, I was the shaved head guy in the Saturn cruising you. Call me. ☎ 9402

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Berkeley Guy
SGWM, handsome, slim, 35, 6', 148, black/hazel, goatee, top, HIV-, nd, ns, employed ucb, likes hiking, jogging, movies, tv, sports. ISO guy under 40 for hanging out, friendship, play. ☎ 9106

Be My "Man Of The Millennium"
I'm 38, affectionate, humorous, responsible, average GWM. You're Asian/Filipino top/ versatile, stable, honest, smart, non-smoker. We're interested in movies, nature, current events, music, conversation, commitment. ☎ 9107

Master 68 ISO Boy-Toy Slave
Hungry, thirsty, bondage, discipline, spanking ,humiliation, water sports HIV-, relocation involved out of state all breeds welcome. ☎ 9108

Spank Me
Cute college frat boy 22 needs over the knee discipline from dominant big brother. Jock strap, speedo, boxer shorts, diapers. Spank me today. ☎ 9109

Daddy Knows Best
You'd agree with 8" of nordic manmeat up yours. You're 5'10", 160lbs, trim, firm, hairy, HIV+ Mediterranean. Service oriented. ☎ 9110

ISO Big Dicked Tops
Me: 50, good looking, 5'11", 175lb, goatee, workout, brn/hzl, shaved head, HIV+, versatile, looking for regular buddy, open to LTR. You: under 35, any race, top or versatile, over 9". No drugs or heavy drinkers. ☎ 9111

Tibetan/Mongolian Queer Wanted
6" WM,160lb, lean, athletic, very young 50yo, ns, HIV-, wanna be free spirit, seeking Tibetan, similar attributes, 5'10"plus, under 40yo for fun and more. ☎ 9112

Financially Secure Male
Wanted by an educated, intelligent, creative and good-looking guy. Please answer my ad for fun, good times etc. ☎ 9113

GLM HIV-Hot ISO GWM HIV-27-38
5'6", 28yo, 135#, clean cut, boyish, n/s, you: good shape & looks, n/s; funny, energized, masculine, taller than 5'11"; profess., friendship/romance to share sunny days & steamy restless nights. ☎ 9205

Mulatto Guy
Good-looking, intelligent, educated, nice-looking for the right type of guys for fun, a relationship or whatever. ☎ 9114

Looking For Lover Local Area
Looks not so important. Solid personallty is. I live in San Leandro. You in same area. Where are you? Let's fall in love! ☎ 9115

Blond Hunk In Santa Rosa
43, look younger, easy going, compassionate, understanding & HIV-, brn hair, brn eyes, mustache, a top. Looking for his bottom 25-45yo. Dark haired A+, with a sense of humor. ☎ 9116

HIV+ Total Top Wanted
Capricorn, Cancer or Virgo, black hair, brown eyes, any race, HIV+, Pittsburgh, Taurus, 37, blue, dirty blonde, 6ft, 185-looking for suburban loving boyfriend to play house! ☎ 9117

GAM Seeking GWM For LTR
Handsome, masculine GAM 38, 5'9", 135lbs. seeks in-shape GWM 30-45, HIV- college educated, hairy. Facial hair, versatile, leather SF preferred. ☎ 9118

Guerneville, My Son (& Lover)?
Me: always 39, 5'9", 160, attr., broker, into sucking/rimming/piss. You: 18+ smart, presentable, industrious, hung, uncut, eager to perform at office, in sack. ☎ 9119

Hot Fun
Attractive 5'10", 175, rd.blu, hung. ISO guys for fun times and dating. Prefer Latinos/Blacks. ☎ 9204

Nice Guy, WM, Mid-Thirties,
6'1", brown hair, green eyes, good looking, clean-cut, academic, gym-goer, warm, considerate, honest, interesting, non-superficial. Interested in everything from coffee chats too? You call, I'll respond. It's a deal! ☎ 9206

In Liberty Hill Area Hot Daddy
I am looking for a hot Latino man 18-35. Me: hot blond, blue, 5'8", 169, 33, outgoing, fun, dinner, coffee, tea, or head. ☎ 9207

One Of A Kind Asian LTR
Sweet and charming professional Asian, educated, romantic, independent, 35/5'6"/145 artistic and good dresser, seeks GWM 30-40 serious w/similar traits like me. ☎ 9208

GLM 27, 6'1" Seeking Friends
and possible LTR. I'm sweet, sentimental, pisces, like walks on the beach, cuddler, hugs, kissing, etc. ☎ 9209

Cock Worship
Hairy GWM mostly bottom (versatile), oversexed, stocky, muscular legs, fat dick, 63, 5'5", short s/p beard. Seeking under 50, hung and/or thick. Insatiable hairy satyr A+. ☎ 9210

GWM Bottom Seeks GAM Top
32yo blond, muscular, versatile, wild, sane, sexually submissive and masochistic. Please be under40 and open to on going relationship. ☎ 9211

Long Motorcycle Trips, Romance,
Film noir, dinners, county fairs, junk stores, C&W, kink to cuddle. Me: 37, 5'8", 145, br/hzl, beard, hairy chest, HIV+. You: older brother/daddy, taller, facial & chest hair. ☎ 9212

Simple Man
33 WM seeking mature grandpa for passion slender, bald no smoking. No kink. I'm slender, bearded good looking. ☎ 9305

We Discover Each Other
I am Japanese very creative & romantic . I really love myself. Like someone very special to share my love with. I enjoy love & sex. Someone who appreciates Japanese culture. Me: 5'8", slim healthy. You: 50-60yrs old. Pls call serious only. Life is very short enjoy each other. ☎ 9214

I Love Tall Guys
GWM, 30, cute, boyish face, br/br, 5'8", 160 athletic build, seeks very tall (over 6'1"), fit, stable, relationship- oriented GWM between 25-35. Beautiful eyes, good heart, spiritual are pluses. ☎ 9215

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking 34y/o dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, professional looking for GWM between 26-40y/o for friendship or more. Me: likes movies, dinner, travel, hiking, biking, etc. ☎ 9216

Prime Find
Fun, friendly, hot GWM, MD, 5'11", 150#, versatile sensual. Attractive? Mid 30's per friends. Sometimes a bit wild. You: GWM 26-38, HWP bot balding, HIV- clean-shaven. ☎ 9302

Only Love. I'm Looking For
Sex-Latin romantic, professional looking for GWM or Latin 18 to 36 . Me: 36, 5'7", 140lbs, brown, brown. Horny and available for everything in sexo, "w.love" ☎ 9304

Real Hot Man ISO Same
Want you for serious cock worship & play. I'm 6'1", 170#, 46yr. s&p, hairy chest & ass looking for fun/dating /ltr. U B 35-50 ns, in shape, a versatile, good looking top. ☎ 9306

Handsome Italian
GWM, 40, 6'2" 185lbs, into fitness, travel, romance and quiet times, seeks a Latin man who is sincere and honest for monogamous relationship. ☎ 9307

Earth, Wind, & Fire....
Attractive GBM, olive complx, young 46, 5'9'', 160#, in shape HIV neg. aggressive bottom seeks top dad. Tall, equally aggressive, HIV-, affectionate, to age 50. Friendship/ more, E.Bay only. ☎ 9404

Full Life, Stable Relationship
GWM 37, handsome, slender excellent relationship material. Enjoys most activities, seeks GWM, top, loving, romantic, good guy under 45 for serious and sincere relationship. ☎ 9405

GAM Seeking GAM For LTR
Me: GAM a student, 25yrs, 5'6", 138# likes movies, watching tv, travel and listening to music. You: GAM, 22/32yrs. taller than me, not slim, but not fat, has same interests. Ns.Nd, serious only. ☎ 9407

Seeking Top
Me: 45, 5'7", 145, great shape, told very attractive, educated, interests, outdoors, sense of humor. You: under 54, HIV-, GWM, short like me, verbal at times. ☎ 9213

Into Movies? Board Games?
Handsome GWM early 40's brn hair, goatee, bdrm eyes killer smile seeks masculine GM 30-50 Hisp, Med. or Ital. prof. likes quiet eves. Relationship oriented. Smoker ok no drugs. ☎ 9408

East Meets West
A semi- retired, prof, Canadian- Arabic male, seeks a yng, blond b.b. married or s/w male under 45. Compassion a plus. Pref. East Bay. ☎ 9409

Seeking Black Stud Buddy
GWM 5'11" 175lb, 40, smart, funny, gdlkn, fit, healthy, wants Blk top 30-50 for passionate sex and good times. HIV+ ok Scorpio A+. ☎ 9415

Heavy Set Overweight Bottom
Dominant top Blk male, 37yrs, 6'2", 195lbs, passionate, assertive HIV-, ISO submissive mate for serious long term monogamous relationship, any race. ☎ 9410

Interested In Stable LTR?
Hot, bearded, pierced, tattooed daddy (165#, 5'10") seeks HIV+, lean, toned, honest, good-looking, tactile, masculine, secure, ns professional, versatile GWM, 35-45 with sense of humor & nasty streak. ☎ 9411

Nasty GWM For Same
Hot, hung, furry top (85%), 35, 6'1", br/gr, 180#, wants loose, tasty hole on smart, handsome, HIV+ pig (25-45) to sink into, even fall for. Wanna go deeper? I do. ☎ 9414

Friendship And Sex
Seeking both, Me: 50 BM top. You: 55-56 WM bottom. Let's have dinner, drinks, smoke, conversation and good sex. Please be 5'10" or less. Not thin, no beard and sensitive nips. ☎ 9416

Size Does Matter
Want a bottom who takes it for long time. Tired of people finding they can't take it. ISO HIV xtra hung thick tops for lusty fun. I'm 40 horny HIV bottom. ☎ 9301

Nice Guy, WM Mid-Thirties
6'1", brown hair, green eyes, good looking, clean-cut, academic, gym-goer, warm, considerate, honest, interesting, non-superficial. Interested in everything from coffee chats to? You call, I'll respond. It's a deal! ☎ 9413

Country Guy Seeks City Husband
Sonoma County GWM, healthy poz, swede, 49, 6'2", 195, masc, n/s n/drugs, enjoys gardening, cuisine, seeks simlar guy who will spend weekends in the country. ☎ 9303

BAR TALK

PERSONALS ARE FREE!

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY** at **5 PM,** for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The *Bay Area Reporter* reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____

Address _____ Evening Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CATEGORY

- Parting Glances ☐
- Seeking Relationship ☐
- Seeking Adventure ☐
- Lesbian ☐
- Fetishes ☐
- Couples ☐
- Others ☐

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, **30 words maximum**

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Do You Have Gigantic Nipples?
Hot muscular guy seeks a guy w/ extra large protruding nipples. My goal is to suck, milk and satisfy you. You won't be disappointed. Pls no flakes, games. Pref. smooth body. ☎ 9417

An Affair To Remember Sought
Me: 44 185 6'3" HIV+ 6 cut thick brn/grn GWM romantic bottom seeking; uninhibited romantic top 30-40's 7+hung thick height/weight prop. Hairy + long hair+ open to any South Bay + fill my dreams. ☎ 9412

"Creamy Chunk Beef!"
Beefy, blond, Mark Mcqwire type, fortysomething, goatee, hairy top, German, creative personal desired by attractive, masculine, Afro-American, caramel Virginian, goatee, 40, 5'11", 170#, writer into jazz, cuddling, romance and monogamy. ☎ 9406

Positively Attractive Asian
Seeking someone special for romance. GAM, 40's, 5'8", 157#, clean shaven, muscular, ISO honest, communicative, non HIV phobic, humorous GWM or GAM. Enjoy cuddling, kissing, sleeping over pillow talk. ☎ 9418

GWM European Blond Blue Eyes
160lbs, 5'11" 32" waist HIV- n/d,n/s ISO BM with non hairy chest, employed. I like kissing and love the touch of a BM skin. I look forward to making you happy. ☎ 9419

SEEKING ADVENTURE

In Search Of.....
Handsome, athletic, HIV-, oral expert BM ISO HIV-, fit, attractive, very well-endowed BM, str8, bi ok... don't be shy. ☎ 9120

Hard Bodies, Bodybuilders Wanted
Good looking, smooth 30yo, 5'8", 160lb, with a hot ass, seeks muscle men. Love to get plowed by 30-50yo bodybuilders. ☎ 9121

White Gold
I like blonde men. White gold blond--not dark or dirty or dyed. Like other qualities also: smarts, humor, maturity. Attractive GWM, 40s, tall and trim, has lots to offer. Ns/nd. ☎ 9122

Muscle Worship
Get aroused posing, oiling up, being admired? Handsome GWM, 45, tall and fit, enjoys watching body builders strut their stuff. Erotic massage optional. ☎ 9123

Chubbles
WM early 40's, 6',155lb., dk hair & eyes. I'm attracted to men with big beer guts who eat a lot & don't exercise, who want oral action and deep kissing. Facial/long hair A+. ☎ 9124

I Love Smelly Uncut Cock!
This attractive white boy, mid 30's, love sucking smelly uncut cock. If you're Asian and have a nice uncut dick, I'll clean it for you. ☎ 9125

Submissive Mexican Bottom
Needed to eat, suck, lick, finger, j/o masc GWM top, 5'10", 160#, br/br, HIV-, 50. You: eager, short, nasty mind, HIV-. Meet weekly or more. ☎ 9126

Mostly Toothless
Senior guy, 60's, 5'8", healthy, congenial, oral, appreciates giving head in long, slow sessions; your dick will appreciate this also. Mostly toothless junior guys sincerely welcomed. ☎ 9127

I Fuck Like A Straight Boy, But..
I'm NOT! Hot, GWM, 5'10" 155lbs, 36, hung, trim, seeks hot, masculine GWM/GLM 25-40 for hot times. If you're serious -call. ☎ 9224

Hung Guys Wanted!!
If you are hung "9" or more, please call me so we can get together for fun and good times. ☎ 9128

South Bay J/O Addict Buddies
GWM, 31, thin, chronic masturbation, jacks naked for hours, days. Wants like- minded buddies for repeated , obsessive, marathon sessions. Under 32, thin, South Bay. ☎ 9129

Sonoma County
ISO mature, dominant man for role playing at my place. Me: 42yo, 5'9" 170#. Ready to serve. ☎ 9130

Palo Alto GAM Bottom
40, 5'11", 185 likes giving guys under 45, average to well endowed, head. Prefer Peninsula area. 11pm-11am wk days. ☎ 9131

Give Me A Good Ride
Well built top /vers/, hung big is looking for well built men (20-30's), hairy to sit on my face and cock for a good ride. ☎ 9132

Spank Me
Cute little blond grad student 22, needs over the knee action from dominant big brother today. Location China Town. ☎ 9217

Asian Top
Looking for slender GWM's who like to suck cock and get fucked. Please be clean. I'm 5'3", 30's, in-shape, HIV+ ☎ 9218

Seeking Swallowers
GAM, height-weight proportionate. 30's seeking GWM's to suck my cock, lick my balls, eat my ass. You be fit and clean. ☎ 9219

Sonoma Co. Oral Slave
Generous middle aged GWM will give great front and rear service to slender guy. 18-35, anything safe but pain. Daytimes only. Your place, mine, or my van. Satisfaction guaranteed. ☎ 9220

Tongue Service For Latin/Asian
GWM bear wants too service Latin or Asian guys front and back with my tongue. Any age or size ok. ☎ 9221

Italian Top Seeks Asian Bottom
I fuck to satisfy you- respond if you need to feel good. 5'8", 165#, 37, gym body. Let me do it to your ass. ☎ 9222

Are You A Hung Fucker?
33y/o, 6'2",220lb HIV+ Jewish dude, hairy, versatile, bottom; seeks men 35-50 hung over 8 inches; preferably long+thick for serious butt plowing. Uncut especially appreciated. ☎ 9223

Do You Have A Huge Pumped Scrotum?
Seeking men 30 to 50y/o with seriously vacuum pumped genitals (huge testicles especially admired). Looking to appreciate your genitals up close and personal. Uncut A+ HIV pos. OK ☎ 9225

I'm Still Looking...
For that perfect, hot, beefy bubble-butt to bury my tongue into and make myself at home. Italian, 46, 6', 230# beefy, bald & moustache. Wanna play? ☎ 9226

Submissive. I Know My Place
6'0", 190lbs stocky -HIV_ 37, buzz cutt, tattoo- oral bottom- ISO masculine, dominant top, HIV_ (35-50) who needs servicing on a regular basis. ☎ 9227

Small Boy Bottoms Wanted
Young smooth tight butts to plow and pleasure - 7 1/2" big balls for you - Latin- Asian -Cauc. ☎ 9228

Sexy Bottom Pig
Kinky BM, 28, 6', 160#. ISO of raunchy top for more. I love to get plowed by 9" or more for hours. Pls be ht/wt proportionate. You 25-45. Your place. ☎ 9229

ISO Extra- Long Foreskin
UB hung, verbal, HIV- like me. LTR, older and trim are pluses. ☎ 9424

Filipino Top Wanted
SBM, 39, 6'1", Is seeking a Pilipino top for safe fun. Any age. Let's meet and have fun. ☎ 9316

Over The Fast Times
Med Peninsula GWM looking for fun, friendship maybe more, HIV pos, Italian, good looking, good shape fun to be with, you same, let's talk. ☎ 9230

Massage Exchange And Whatever!
Formerly-excellent masseur (not CMT) wants to get back to exchanges- therapeutic, erotic, or both! Experience not necessary but desirable. I'm fit and trim, smooth, intense, playful, warm 5'10", 140lb, 50 with body of 38. Slow, flowing esalen style. ☎ 9231

Seeking A Cock To Worship
Roll your big balls over my tongue. Force feed me that mushroom-headed manpole, down to the root! I'm handsome, 42yo, white, tall, in shape. You: thick, HIV-. ☎ 9232

Bondage Top
Experienced bondage top 41, 5'8", 155, HIV-, good looking, masc., seeks submissive, masc. guy for erotic bondage and play. Limits respected. Safe, discreet, trustworthy. SF and East Bay. ☎ 9233

Insatiable Man-pussy
30's Asian guy, 5'8", 165 has a man-pussy that needs to be fucked hard. Use toys, fingers, fist, fat cock. I can take it. East Bay. ☎ 9308

Black Bottom Hole To Fuck
For "experienced uninhibited top" ISO easy access bottom. I'm, masc, 39, 5'11"/150#, g.tee, shaved head. You, ht/wt, prop, masc & ready to fuck. ☎ 9309

Big Husky & Pleasantly Fat
GBM, 45yo, 5'11", 250lbs, seeks big & fat men his size or bigger only, for versatile, uninhibited sex. Dildos a plus. Discretion a must. ☎ 9310

Sleepless In Sonoma
GWM HIV+, dark blond, bl. mustache Germ/Am, stocky eager to please, seeks dk. dominant hirsute, well-endowed masc. man for sex, adventure. Intelligence job, facial hair A+. ☎ 9311

Sonoma County Rubdown
Nude massage by handsome, muscular, CMT offered to generous individuals, seeking stress relief for aching muscles. ☎ 9312

Hot Ass And Cock For You
Versatile EB white male, hung, round buns, mature, HIV-, 5'8", 155, ISO males age race open for hot fuck /suck. Be HIV-, no games, no pagers. ☎ 9313

Italian Guys!!!
I'm the guy who knows what the Italian male really wants!! ☎ 9314

Never Underestimate The Power
Of a cocksucker! As capt, U.S. olympic fellatio team got entire German team to defect, guess how. Time you shot an olympic load? Warning: You'll wanna repeat. Str8/uncut ideal! ☎ 9315

Shut-Up And Fuck
34, 5'10" 200lb blond/blue muscle-fuck wants good looking masculine men to pump each other. Also love to get massaged and jerked off- anytime. ☎ 9317

Be My Guide
Visiting academic- seeks youthful company Bay Area, with possible weekends away. Me: 40's 5'7", non-smoker, enjoys hiking and music. You: 18-30, cute, playful & HIV-. ☎ 9318

My Body Gets Your Body
GWM 51yrs old 6'2" 180lb. 7 1/2 cut. HIV+ love to fuck each other, some spanking some rimming. Prefer somewhat same body type sex only. ☎ 9319

ISO Big Bellied
Masc. Bi m muscle guy wants oral play with mas. big bellied guys hairy A+day time. ☎ 9320

ISO Worn Jock Straps For Art
Solid worn jock straps stains, crude, and all being collected for graphic expressive art work depicting the most male of all clothing. Include photo if desired. Details on request. ☎ 9321

Blk Bot Sks Top Hot Mouth
Deep throat tight end athletic body raunch + kink + sleaze + role playing + wk ends some eve. ☎ 9322

Young And Hung In Marin?
ISO young horny North Bay guys (21-30) who need expert blow-jobs service by handsome, built guy. ☎ 9323

Poz GBM Sks GWM/Latn Top
Healthy poz GBM, 6ft, 175, 38 sks top to service. A+ for small built guys. Tell me how you want me to take it. ☎ 9421

Asian/Am Nympho Bottom
5'9", slim, clean shaven, HIV- looks 30's tight deep ass/deep throat seeks all tops 9"+ thick. Lt smoker, non drinker, Love aroma, Luv all but pain. Be a nympho top. ☎ 9422

Nellie Top Looking 4 Submissive
GWM 50's, HIV-, smoker, non-gym with average hard cut cock looking for aggressive GWM 30-50, witty and with cut cock for mutual oral play and ass plowing. ☎ 9423

Looking 4 Cocksucker In S.C.
Sonoma County. I need some good head. I'm 33, WM, Italian, built, HIV-. You be HIV-, discreet & eager to please. ☎ 9426

Your White Bitch Cocksucker
Submissive White 45 year old 5'8", light brown hair. Heavy guy looking for a hung Black guy to please, talk nasty while I suck your Black cock. ☎ 9427

Great Blow- Jobs For Good Tops
Like to get butch men off, your the boss. For guys ages 20-49, I am 40. I also am very good too. ☎ 9428

Pig Play Wanted
African male seeks leather couple or single for fun, video's, ff, ws, rim, toys, need space to play anytime. ☎ 9429

A Hot Ass Need's To Get Fucked
GWM, 5'11" 175lbs, n/s, n/d HIV- *Like to suck your hot cock if you got* 7 inch or 8"inch cock to suck on. White or Asian. No factor. Let's watch video's. Please call. ☎ 9430

Opposites Attract
Masculine, muscular, big-dick Italian topman gets hard for small-dick, bubble butt bottom boys. Any race. ☎ 9431

Let's Try This One More Time!
Wasn't ready the first time I placed this ad. Italian, 46, 6', 230#, bald, goatee and disabled (crutches). Interested in meeting guys who can see past my disability. ☎ 9433

Seeking GBM
GWM, attr, smart, HIV-, 40, bl/hzl, 5'10", 180 seeking good oral times with GBM up to 50, be in-shape, HIV, dark, smooth, A+. ☎ 9434

Male Gear Guy
Likes to mount other HIV- men. SGWM, 6'4", 48, 165lbs, salt and pepper also appreciates aromatic pits and hairiness. ☎ 9435

Guys Who Enjoy Feet
Guys who enjoy feet GWM 44 size 9 feet bottom or top seeks sizes 8 1/2 up any age with nice shape feet for fun barefeet only. ☎ 9436

Horny Dude Sought For Hot J/O
If you're muscular & masculine with at least 8"cock and you enjoy marathon stroke sessions you've hit the right ad. Creative, un-inhibited, verbal exhibitionists A+. Hot for self-suckers & porn too. ☎ 9432

Chubby Man Gives Great Head
No recip. nec. ISO a few good men to suck off regularly. Please be laid back & non combative for this itsy but amenable chub. Be clean nd no$ dentures removed. ☎ 9425

New To Scene
26, GWM, blond, blue, hairy chest/legs, am new to night life and am seeking young Latino and others for real fun at the club circuit (End-Up, Universe, Pleasuredome). You won't be disappointed. ☎ 9420

FETISHES

FF Top Seeks Submissive Bottom
Muscular Latin top poz seeking poz ff bottom 30 or under into being restrained B/G. pluses shaved heads, tatoos, piercings. Me ff top, pierced, tats, & 8 1/2 tool. ☎ 9133

Got Upper & Lower Dentures??
Would like to get gummed for long deep-throat sessions. 8"cut, poz, 6', 170, 41y.o. Arab/American man. Milk it good if you want it, or until ready. ☎ 9134

Drag Queens Sexual Interlude
ISO drag-queens- red-heads + +, 18-40, cigar smoken + +, 69+ +, ass person+ +, clean & sober, discreet, 1st virgin-experience. ☎ 9135

Couple Of Bad Boys
Very good looking, Asian & blond, in shape. Late 30's, poz. Seek Asian & Latin playmates into butt play, ff, toys, other nasty fun. ☎ 9136

Daytime Asshole-Eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 9137

East Bay
GWM 60, loves naked men w/big clean feet and cut meat, you don't have to be a greek god, just be real and I will make you feel so good. ☎ 9138

Fantasy Trip With Wild GM
Meet me at Power Exchange, dress code: erotic nude, simple self-rope bondage w/cb/tt attire, play, walking, j/o together, possibly more if we met again by GAM 36, 5'9", 150, gym-toned, You: nice looking in shape, under 40. ☎ 9234

Frat Paddle
Pants down frat paddling for guys who need discipline, motivation, release. Safe, sane, stinging. ☎ 9235

Yng, Blk, Latino Dominate Tops
Wanted by goodlooking 38 blond. Wanting to totally orally service you. Use me & my body for your pleasure. Kink, fun, humiliation bd/ws open minded no sm uncut + ☎ 9236

Folsom Fistfight Frenzy 9/25/99
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Who like their dicks sucked. I'm WM, 6'1", 193#. I love all uncut dicks on lean men. Tight skin an extra plus. Also love ass-holes. My place only. ☎ 9326

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Master, 48 & slave, 29 visiting Sept 22-Oct 4. ISO boys for SM play. Also, interviewing slave candidates for live- in position in Washington DC Leather family. Relocation required. ☎ 9327

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Would like to get gummed for long deep-throat sessions. Poz 8"cut meat, 6', 170, 41yo. Arab/American man. Milk it good if you want, or just until popped. Big head. ☎ 9329

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To have some fun. We are in good shape and would love to have a third join us for some adventures, uninhibited sex. Be in shape, under 45 hairy A+. ☎ 9139

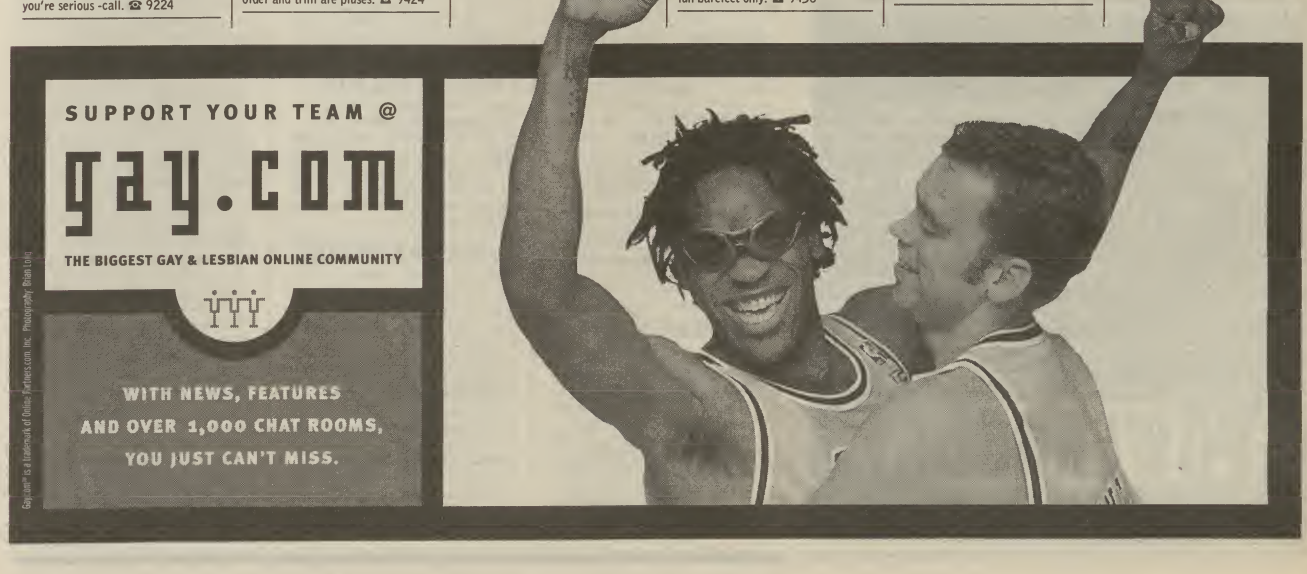
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Out There

◀ page 38

the horny Vegas singer may not seem to have much in common. But Out There has performed a painstaking comparison between the two tomes, and has uncovered the following strange-but-true connections:

Eddie Albee's gleefully wicked masterpiece, *Who's Afraid of* ***Virginia Woolf?,*** was made into a film starring actors (and sometime-spouses) **Richard Burton** and **Elizabeth Taylor**. Eddie Fisher was married to Taylor, but lost her to Burton during the filming of ***Cleopatra***. Coincidence? We think not.



Eddie Fisher in 1947

For most of his life, Fisher was apparently a promiscuous heterosexual. Here's his idea of a hot date: "As we strolled in the quiet of a balmy Mexico City evening, I asked sweetly, 'Abbe [Lane, "the most exotic Jewish girl from Brooklyn ever to become a Latin star"], could you just slip off your dress and keep walking?'

"Gracefully, she complied. She was wearing high heels. That was all, just high heels. ... It was a perfect moment, a moment I will never forget."

Compare that with Albee's idea of a night out: gay composer **Ned Rorem** remembers that "Before **Bill** [Flanagan, Albee's first lover] and Edward were famous, they would go to the Eighth Street bars... and they would go to opposite ends of the bar. They were known as the **Sisters Grimm** because they wouldn't smile. They would sulk and they would swill down straight shots of whiskey with beer."

Sounds to us like two sides of the same celebrity coin!

Life beyond porn

"People think that all I do is watch porno," said veteran *B.A.R.* video reviewer **John Karr**. "But I do other things."

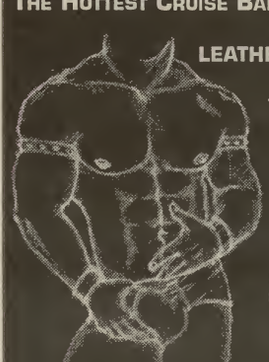
Agreed. Karr was the first editor of the *B.A.R.*'s Arts & Entertainment section back in the Paleolithic Era, and he's been working steadily in sound design and the theatre arts ever since. He's also checked your clothes at some of the best sex clubs. And for the past 17 years, Karr and fellow sexualist **Jerry Zientara** (aka "**Dr. Woof!**") have been co-hosts at the j/o club SF Jacks, for which they received a Special Recognition at the Stop AIDS Project's 4th Annual HIV Prevention Awards, last week at the Starlight Room.

"We hope this recognition will encourage more guys to show up and show off at the group's meatings, which have always been a little loose and funky," said Karr. "They're low tech, but high jiz. And also Y2K compliant." (For info, call the Jacks Hotline, 267-6999.) ▼



Jerry Zientara and John Karr

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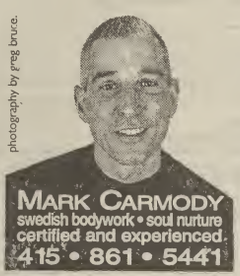


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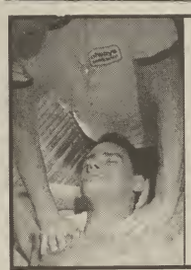
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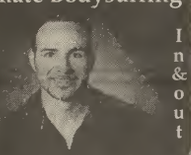


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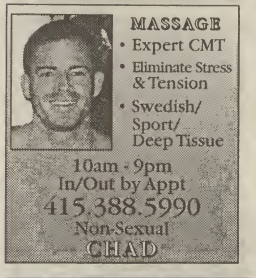
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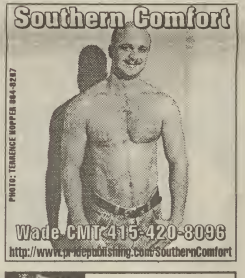






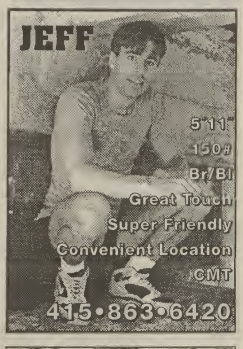


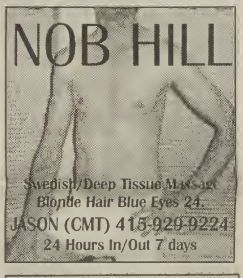




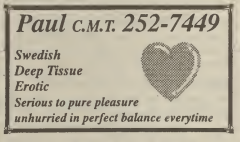






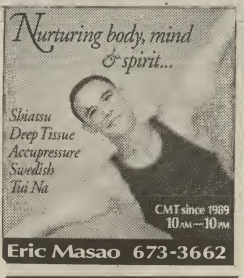




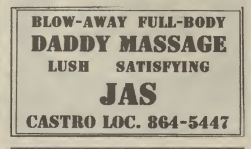




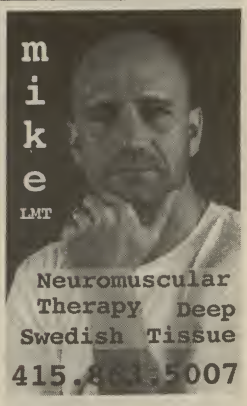








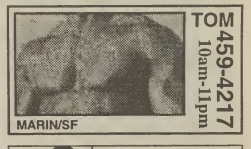














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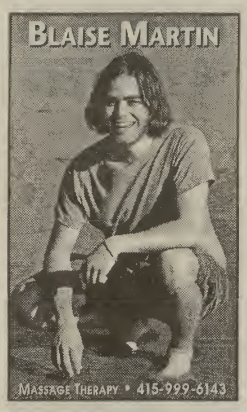
EROTIC MASSAGE

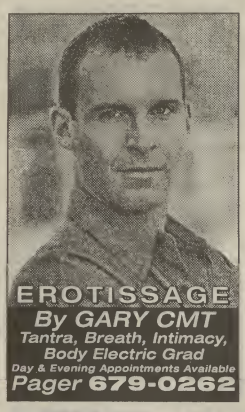
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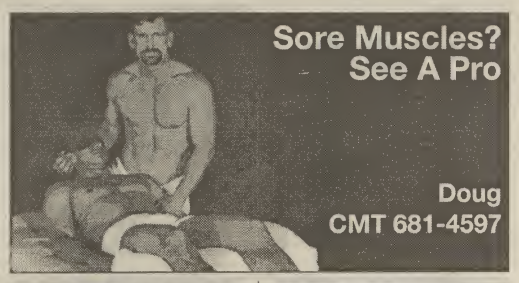
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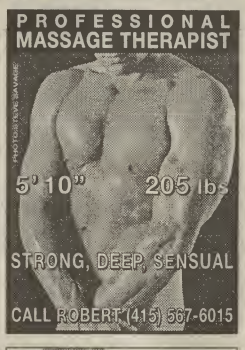






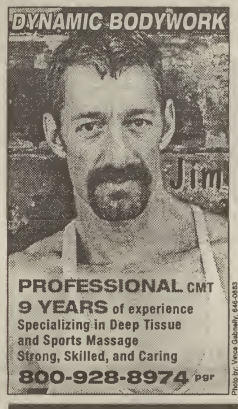






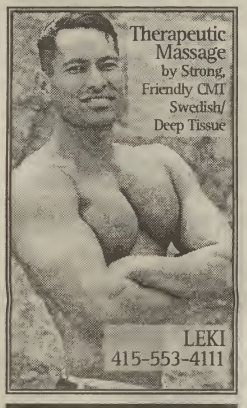


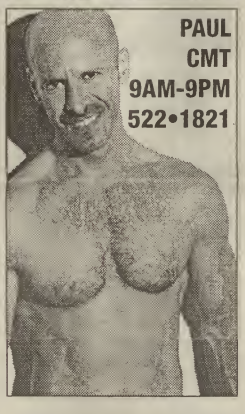








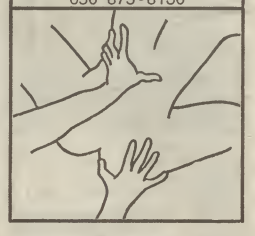












Great & Best Massage * 614-0397
BY CUTE CHINESE BOY E39

Friendly pro w/talented, affectionate hands, will honor your body + bless you with bliss w/slow, sensual touch, masculine nurturing, relaxed eroticism and solid massage. $50. Tom 764-6319 E38

Unique style therapeutic and erotic massge in front of a fireplace. Outcalls available also. Johnny 505-3060 E38

I Strive to Achieve
EXCELLENCE
in life, and my full-body erotic massage is no exception!
I am a very defined,
handsome, blond gymnast.
$55 * Kevin * 864-1190 E38

Hot X-Rated Rub/Real Gusher
Nudist/Ken/346-4966/$60 E39

Cute, fit, 29, hard, shaved bod
NAKED MARINE
Mutual touching.415-289-7002 E42

WALNUT CREEK
Hot man, Strong hands
Great massage! (925) 938-2416 E38

TOTALLY PROFESSIONAL
Therapeutic massage by out call
Chiropractor $45/Hr(510) 654-3700 E38

WALNUT CREEK
Fullbody energy massage 8AM-8PM
$35 Hr 925-256-7135 Rod Returns E44

Older men welcome. Great massage
Nude/cute guy. Don (415) 351-2034 E40

I'M BACK-COME RELAX!!
Warm friendly versatile Eastbay
guy gives intuitive nude erotic
fullbody massage. $40 an hour.
Jim 510-527-7630 Eves/SA/SU/MO E40

23YO HOT COLLEGE GUY
gives nude oil massage. Stats:
6ft 180, smooth, awesome tits, great tanline, shaved hot spots.
Italian/Irish. Near 280/Out/Hotels
Info 791-1214 Patrick. Come C Me E39

Sensual, Therapeutic, Full Body!
$35 FEEL GOOD!
Massage 4U Exc Pro CMT 552-5364 E39

Muscular Man 925-689-6076 E39

A truly talented Texan Masseur!
Handsome very friendly, reliable
Private studio, table, lotion.
Sexy, strong, smooth, tattoos, fun!
DALLAS * 313-2031
You won't be disappointed! E38

Nude full-body erotic massage by
FRIENDLY AMERASIAN
Ramon*Eves/Wkends 415-902-5985 E39

E. BAY & SAN FRANCISCO HOT EROTIC
Sensual touch. Done in the nude.
6'2" 190, 30 yr old. Let this warm and friendly stallion give you a full body massage with release. Phone Anthony at 510-533-4398 E38

Swedish/massageBIBI5'9"150lb25athletic/smooth/cmt/Kyle/251*0174in&out E40

Focused soothing sensual
Swedish massage by experienced professional in the Castro.
There is a difference!
Mark * 415-861-5441 E38

Body-Electric CMT offers full body erotic sessions in Oakland, 34,5'11", 145Lbs High@580 (510)336-1999
Paul*http://www.massagerotic.com E38

SEXY ISRAELI
Great massage more by handsome, friendly experienced CMT 245-1352 E38

Mack's "Fullbody" Massage
In&Out Calls - Hotels Too!
Pgr 415/251-0563 Thanks... E38

Hot Handsome Healthy 27yo
Total full body erotic pleasure
Strong Sensual Intuitive Touch
Sports Swedish Shiatsu 790-7717 E38

JUST EXCELLENT
Amazing massage by strong, gentle friendly experienced CMT 207-6025 E38

$45/75 min Derek, CMT New for SF
INTERACTIVE MASSAGE
Unique Touch Experience, plus
MORE! (415) 255-1164 E38

East Bay Comflrt Warmth & More
Sensual Massage by Nude Masseur
Bob $25/Hr. (510) 843-4408 E38

Tall Handsome Blond Student 26
Muscular deep relaxing Swedish massage 377-4304. Late Calls OK E42

*****JAPANESE*****
$60 * KEN * 668-0640 E43

Smooth Relaxing Hands 6"1", 185
Handsome Rob. Pgr:(415) 245-1984
$45/in/$55/out Eves & Weekends E37

Sensual nude massage 5'5", 140lb
Handsome Latin boy Kevin $55/hr
In/out 415-355-9315 Friendly
pager 415-207-5219 E38

East Contra-Costa Men: Full-Body
Table Massage. Page: 925-688-9823 E43

Erotic Therapy*Lean Athletic Body
BAREASSED SANTA CRUZ
8am-11pm.Gary,CMT,831-429-8369 E43

29yo energyshifter*Reiki ritual
Relax-transform-heal! All scenes
6'155#Blueyes*Dillon 235-4269
UNCONDITIONAL LOVE E38

EastBay Guy to massage your cares away. Call J-510-839-9760 E39

Esalen-Swedish Massage on Table
in front of a roaring fire. Muscular
clean 48yrs CastroLoc.$40 Chip 626-4093 E39

HOT& CUTE ASIAN
GYMTONED, SMOOTH, EROTIC MASSAGE
IN/OUT. PAGER: 270-9752 E39

MASSAGE WORKSHOP
by CMT. Learn to give a full body mass. to help frien/fam. Indv or sm group 14 yrs exp pr. ses. avail. Call Cesar 267-1885 E38

34yo,hairy chest, muscular
TALL BLOND 6'3"
Swimmers bld, dark Bl on D/Blue
Hot massage 415-449-5968. Out E38

EAST BAY ASIAN CMT
Prof'l Swdsh 510-234-1735 E38

MOZART MASSAGE MONK
The difference between a "hand job" and my Taoist Erotic Massage is the difference between banging on a piano or playing Mozart. Joseph Kramer, founder of Body Electric, offers astonishing,full-body touch for men on erotic-spiritual paths. 90 minutes/$100. Rockridge. 510-428-9063. www.erospirit.org and www.masagenet.com. Sorry, no same day appointments E39

SOOTHING ASIAN TOUCH
Short notice OK. Flex day/eves
Certified 753-0840 * Achilles E38

Relaxing &/or erotic by a very
smth nude masc Asian * 560-6353 E41

Great pecs-nice ass $55 208-1763
SEXY BLACK MAN E38

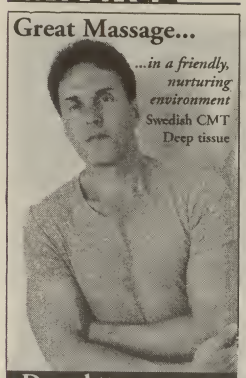
Double-Hot Bear! Prostate Massage &/or WS Top in SF 9/22-9/28. Must book 6 hrs in advance-call back required. Great touch 339-7465 E38

MALE SOUL BODYWORK
Explore the soul by loving the body. Massage, taoist erotic energy work, intentional touch, intuitive reading 646-0685 E38

E. Bay Italian jock, 6', 175 Lbs.
Swedish Massage 9AM - 9PM
JOHN * (510) 658-2437 E38

MASSAGE BY LATINO
A real massage by a real
masseur smooth handsome
GM 30 gives satisfying
full body massage 45 in
60 out. Pg Adolfo 208-7845 E38

MASSAGE



Gentleboy of BERLIN

Handsome 28, with a passionate touch for your unabashed pleasure.
Br/br/ 5'9"/ 150#/ 8" uncut
$60/ 1hr. $70/90 min.
Sliding Scale for PWA



Phillip
(510) 644-0221
Daytime Discounts



COMPLETE RELEASE
CONCORD-WALNUT CREEK
FULL BODY/FULL PLEASURE
BY FRED OR BUTCHY
90-MINUTES/$35
CALL:925-682-5675

Sexy 21y old, uncut boy from Prague offers sensual erotic massage & play. Out 207-0388 Beep E38

SACRED HEALING MASSAGE
Shiatsu & Yoga Therapy: presence, compassion, surrender. Bart CMT 415/441-3865 E39

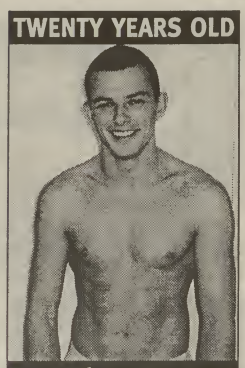
Erotic massage in Marin
LAY BACK & ENJOY!
Smooth slim guy. Andy 461-4135 E41

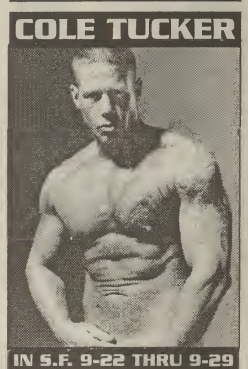
THAI MASSAGE IN SAN JOSE
Page 408-815-1710
Please ask for massage E41

NEW EXOTIC ASIAN BOY
Full Sensual therapeutic massage by young smooth cute Daniel. (415) 282-2811 or page 244-5842. EZ parking. Tourists welcome. 10AM-11PM E38



MODELS/ESCORTS





SIZE 12 FEET -HOT- TOP
Gd Lking Foot top 39yo, 6'1", 195#
Scott (415) 790-0902 In/Out calls E39

Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs
ASIAN TOP
$80/$100 * JIM 267-1817 E39

Spanking & Paddling
Discreet, 773-9130 Kory E38

Mike, 34, 5'10", 200#, Bld/Blu
Clean-cut, Muscle Hunk
In/Out $100 (415) 863-8932 E01

Kicks back for service *24 Hours
10X6"UNCUT
Big fat tool 503-0504 Pgr678-1005 E38

Better than Valium
Full Body Massage 715-6410 Brad E38

LEATHER/SM/FANTASY
39yo top 6'1",195# 7"uncut,flattop
Gdlking into bondage, s/m, w/s, f/f,cbt, violet wand, toys, boots.
Beginner? Have playspace & equip.
Scott(415)790-0902Pg# In or Out E39

Be the happiest man alive 792-8028
CUTE ASIAN BOY E38

BB Bottom In/Marin, Out/BayArea
Ted* (415) 459-3488 E38

Hot Hawaiian-Jap 2 rockhard smooth globes of butt! Loads of relief 29yo, 24hr. 650-592-4620 E43

BLK HANDSOME STUD TOP
Very discrete and friendly clean slim built with boyish looks and well endowed also stays hard first timers welcomed out only
CEDRIC PGR VM 510 639-6576 E38

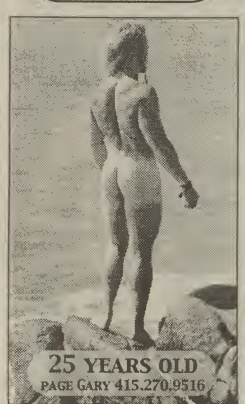
HOT MAN FROM BOISE
5'10" 152lbs swimmers build let your fantasies run wild Dean 415 307-9123 E38

WHEN YOU WANT A MAN NOT A BOY
Thirty something with good looks & a sense of humor looking 4 adventure. I'm well built, aggressive top!
XXXHUNGXXXTHICK!!!
Max 415-431-6253 $90. 24hrs. E38

5'7" 135#sexy,slim,smooth 908-8888
ASIAN PORN STAR
Hot,horny,handsome $65in/$85out E38

22yo Frat boy Hunk
Solid muscular pecs, abs, & legs.
Deep throat and young jock ass.
5'9", 155#'s, 30"w,8"ct 739-7312 E38

* *Dramatically Different!* *
Demonstrably Straight Studs
& Other Spectacles of Exotica
Upscale Players Club
for intransient members only
Unparalleled Anonymity
available for freedom of expression
Top Quality Options
One-On-One/Group/Custom Scenes
Contemplative/Tutorial/Participatory
Act Now
A maximum of twelve new members will be introduced
* 415.835.2143 *



Sexy, playful, muscular top. I'm 29 with a hard, defined gymnast's body; broad shoulders, great chest, popping biceps, handsome face, 8 hard inches offering hot, sensual, intimate times. Jeff 679-8487 vm $120hr. E38

Horny Stud. Open to all fantasies.
Hung long & xxxthick. Sexy quality.
STRICTLY TOP
Mike 415-861-7399 $90. Call now! E38

LEATHER TOP!
Handsome, Expert Master
Light To Heavy Sensual s/m
TOM 415-487-1296 E39

HOT LATIN BOY
21yo, 5'10", 156#, slender and smooth. Masculine, uncut, passionate kisser, friendly.
Safe and discreet.
Rick (415) 245-2032 (pgr/vm)
latinboysf@yahoo.com out only E38

EXPERIENCED TOP
Very handsome, hung, passionate, creative, strong & gentle, & fullfill your fantasies, friendly 207-6117 E38

DOMINATION!!!
S&m, bondage, etc. Please be serious
No b.s. In/out 24hrs 505-8256 E38

Pec & Nipple work. Kory
Kory 773-9130 E38

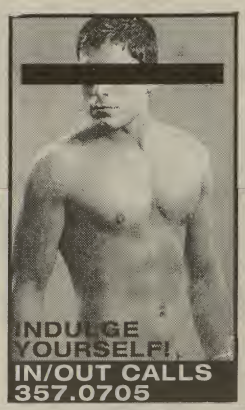
Handsome 22y/o w/packed shorts
SOCCER JOCK
Lean, athletic body- versatile
Kevin pg#605-5328 in/out 24/7 E41

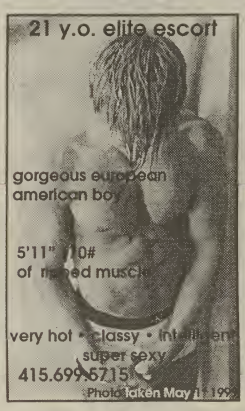
sanfrancescort ruck at man-maxt E39

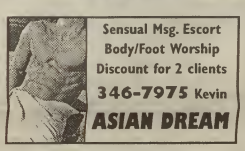
WIDER IS BETTER!!!
Goodlooking stud who is thicker than most will fulfill your fantasy. This stud knows how to treat you right. Is xxx hung too!
Craig $95 415 861-Sexx E38

Handsome hung Italn/German stud
CHOKE ON THIS!
34,6' 150# 30w hairy chest/legs huge 10x7 dominant masc intlgnt gentle strength & arousing edge aggressive oral top or kicks bk for service. Verbal, some kink
Sf Bay Area Tom 415 256-6743 E38

BOYLESK BOYS
Write: P.O.B. 4022, Santa Rosa, Ca. 95402-4022. Free news!
(707) 773-3337 E41







Tit play/ butt paddled or fisted hung hard-bodied Dan 775-4623 E38

MUSCULAR-BLOND-HORNY -BUBBLE-BUTT-FRIENDLY -BIG-PEKS.-CLEAN-CUT- -LIKE-TO-DO-IT-ALL
510-549-0505 cell 510-407-9748 E38

Aggressive military boy. All fantasies; cute, lean, versatile.
SHOOTMESF.COM
$80-great smooth butt. 339-7888 E45

28"w 135# 6'1" 25yo
CHARMING & HANDSOME
Slender & smooth
open-minded & friendly
curious? 415-393-9020 out only
$150 www.cyberbellion.com E39

OREGAN LOGGER
53c 18a 34w 8"log solid mountain of muscles. Rich pgr. 415 267 7773 E38

SLAVE FOR SALE
27yo, obedient, great body.
I'm ready for anything sir.
In/out 24hr David 207-5498 E38

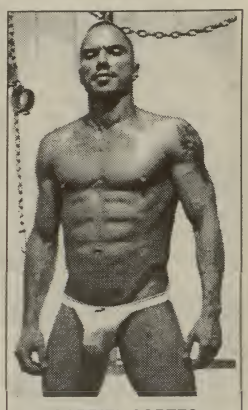
WANT IT ROUGH?
Lean, smooth leather top, 32, gives it like you need it.
Sm/bd/ff/ws, dog/slave training
PAGE JACK 790-3312 E39

Hndsm, hairy, massively endowed top 4 oral wrshp 415-256-6743 E38

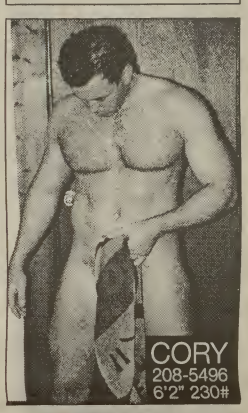
FANTASY, KINK
Vers, mostly bottom, lets explore your wildest desires kink, ws,bd caths, very, very open to most butt play, no sm or violence
436-0283 E38

EROTIC MASSAGE
In the nude. Release with a cute handsome 25yo. masculine hairy chest, legs, cute butt! Outcalls anywhere in SF Bay Area. Brice $80 Nice Release After 510-912-8812 E38

Naked runner $40 650-347-2468
SF & Penins 7.5" Big Balls 53y/o. E39



GABRIEL CORTES
NYC ESCORT / TITAN MODEL
34 5'8" 160# SEXY, MASCULINE VERSATILE, HUNG, BIG NIPS MOST SCENES, OUT ONLY
MOBILE: 917-375-5381



MAN WITH A FIST-TOYS
Need a helping hand? I'm great w/beginners thru advanced. Give it up 2 Nick-Nob Hill-885-1471 E38

Masculine good looks, muscular tall 9"ct verbal Tom 764-6280 E38

6', 205#, hot construction worker w/
HAIRY MUSCLES
Strong arms, big chest & powerful butt & legs call me if you want to service, be dominated, or just shown some affection 201-6533 E48

YES SIR!!!
Masculine bottom to serve you
5'9" lean & smooth
Take control pg Nick 709-1467 E38

Fantasize about leather & the way it feels & smells? Looking up at a man w a solid muscular body? Get in his sling! Ws? body worship! 6' 175 48 beaut 8 1/2" big nips, defined hairy chest! Great arms! Photo on line Derek 207 0381 Collar and Leash? E39

Spank this houseboy! Cute 22.. boxholder P.O.Box 641945 San Francisco, Ca. 94164-1945 E38

Sexy blond jock with w/shbrd abs & Incredicble pecs. 5'9", 165, 8 1/2"c tanned masculine, & very handsome, $100/$120.
JASON 864-1190 E38

HOT, HUNGRY, HORNY BOTTOM
Born to serve men
Call Rick 242-4230, 24hrs. E39

230LBSREALDEAL
ALL-MUSCLE 5'8", 31"
WAIST 50" CHEST 20" ARMS
EXPRO-WRESTLER- SEMI Probodybuilder- 650-220-2044
or 650-615-4111- out only E40

Italian stud, black hair brn eyes 6ft, swimmer's build, defined chest & legs, bedroom eyes, beautiful ass, 8" uncut. Outcalls, Pref/hotels. Gino 22. model looks Hourly/over night Don't you want it now. 436-0402VM E38

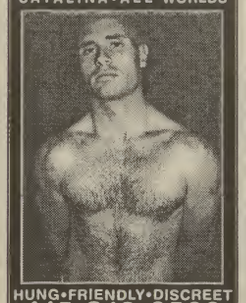
YOUNG LATINO TOP
23yo, 6ft, 160#, smooth, uncut, very good-looking, intelligent, friendly. Antonio 415-298-6452 E38

MODELS/ESCORTS

S/M SENSUALITY
–long, & slow– my specialty.
6'2", 185, strong, gymtoned master into all aspects & degrees of leatherplay.
S/M, B&D, FF, WS, raunch.
Lord 431-0959

SIZE MATTERS
Hard, raw, tight, long, thick, juicy stud.
A real 9x7 Experienced Top!
Justin 415-810-5611 $85in/$90out

VISITING SF 9/24 to 9/26
LEX KYLER
CATALINA•ALL WORLDS



HUNG•FRIENDLY•DISCREET
415-313-0500



5'8" 170 30YO C44/W29/A17/Q26
8" CUT 160 OUT
415 977-7545

Hot 8" Nudist/Oral/J/OVideos/Cuddling/Ken346-4966/$60 E39

REDBEAR PAGER 245-5966 E38

865-0144
BIG TOOL, GREAT FACE
LARGE LOAD'S WELL PLACED
In/out days/eves til 10pm E38

STRAIGHT TOP
5'9", 190 bl/bl very attractive very muscular dominant & aggressive sm ok 415-376-5386 707-470-3199 E38

Masc nasty bottom $65 861-4650 Al E38

DADDYBEAR PGR 245-5966 E38

HORNY MUSCLE STUD
Handsome, masculine, solid 6', 190# hairy 45c, strong 17a, trim 31w hard 8x6, big nuts 415 207-2945 E38

212-1924 PGR 864-1168
Tattoes- swimmers-bld-sexy- E38

CARIBBEAN STUD COBY
New to San Francisco. Great body hung huge & thick 24 yrs old. Experienced top, friendly, easy to rough. 24hrs (925) 947-7603 E38

Muscular Man 925-689-6076 E39

EX-COP
Feet back and spread!
Masculine, in-shape 6'2", 190 total satisfaction. In/out 415.626.5605 Trip E40

9x7 fantasy top man- 807-7776 Erik 24-hour hard-on any scene E38

NU FROM SAN DIEGO
Defined swimmers build tatoos very good looking nicely hung, pretty butt, quick or long appts. In/out Ez parking Brad 244-4290 E42

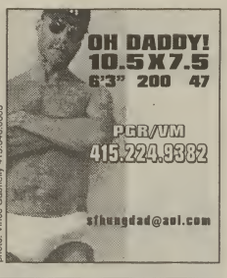
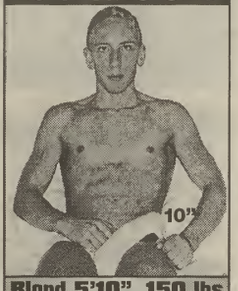


photo: Vince Gabrielly 415.646.0883

20 YEARS OLD



Blond 5'10", 150 lbs
Out Only
790-5076 pgr

ALL AMERICAN JOCK
REX, 26, 6'
Very Goodlooking, Blond, Masculine, Muscular Bodybuilder
46" Chest / 32" Waist/Thick & Well-Endowed • Outcalls Only
415 708-1521

Here's What You Want
►SUPER HUNG◄
►EXTRA HANDSOME◄
Sexy Jock with defined muscular body & very versatile.
Matt 864-1190 In/Out

SAN JOSE BOY
25, 5'11", 165#, blonde hair, tan. 120/hr. Pager/voice: 408-882-8669. http://members.aol.com/SnJoseStud E38

Hot x-smth Asian bottom 5'8", 140 swim. bld. bubl. butt 560-6353 E40

CUTE FACE DIRTY MIND
25, 5'11", 155# smth & verse w/hot butt Kyle 376-6396 www.lovings.com E39

5'9" 150# 25yo
TONED HOT BODIED STUDENT
studies hard. Big low hangers very handsome- out only- 207-8392 E38

HOT ASIAN TOP
IN SF 415 790-4081
Please call to find out E38

Blond dancer-kinky leather fetish top. Vick 337-3848 E38

MYSTERY MAN
26y/o, 145lbs, muscular, smooth, and very cute! Open to almost anything! Please be serious, no b.s. In/out travel 24 hours call!! 505-8256 E38

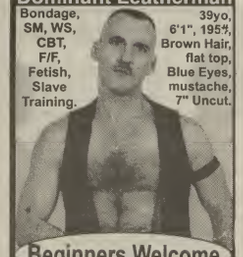
Blonde, goatee, pierced, tattooed
LONG HAIRED SURFER
6', 200, 32, bi, very masc, muscular great looking, passionate top Zach 515-1428 msg. Out only E38

Call Jake 415 519-7546 In/out
21YR FILIPINO/WHITE
5'6", 120LB EURASIAN BOTTOM for pics j_puppy@hotmail.com E40

www.geocities.com/westhollywood/cafe/2372 Rocky 244-0405 $2000 E38

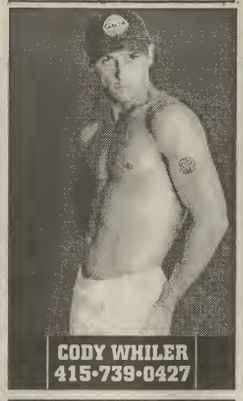
MEN'S VIDEO STAR
As seen in Titan Hothouse and Brushcreek. Handsome and fun pgr 208-1396 Scott. E38

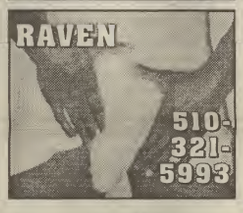
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Bondage, SM, WS, CBT, F/F, Fetish, Slave Training.



39yo, 6'1", 195#, Brown Hair, flat top, Blue Eyes, mustache, 7" Uncut.

Beginners Welcome
Have equipment and playspace.
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http://www.netcom.com/~puddles1/scott/index.html





SEXY GERMAN ESCORT
28, 5'9", 150 blond, smooth, swimmer build, great tanlines to explore, 8.5 inches of cut pleasure, vers., mild to wild
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Asian Jock, 26yo, 6', 175#
100/hr Derek 408-792-3579 E40

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Puerto Rican -22, gym toned boyish bod, bleached hair, bubble butt
8.5"X5.5" ROCK HARD
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DADDYS HOME AND
Wnts Srvc 6'1", 235#, Allmscl, Hry Vry Hot, 8x7 Hole Lover, Page 227-7448 E38

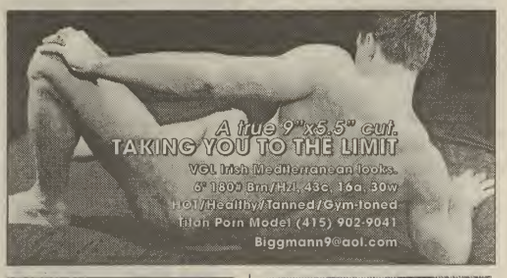
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Muscle-stud kicks back while you service my 9 1/2 inches $150 call Jake 415-208-4563 E39

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21yo, 5'9", 150#, blond/blue
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A smooth, lean, athletic body, gorgeous face & friendly smile. Ryan 336-3369 Out only $150 E39

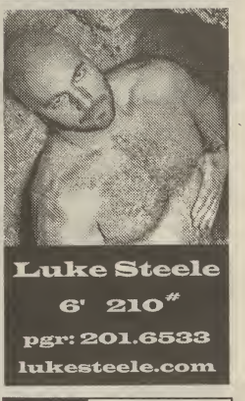
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21yo 5'8", 160lb pgr 267-7923 E38

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HUNG 9+, VERS/TOP
6', 190#, 30W, 48C, 16A
IN- 125 OUT- 150
More info call Paul 415-225-9072 E39

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27, 5'9", 165, masc, musc, discreet 8.5x6, versatile/top, SF outcalls Ray 307-3455 *eves* weekends* E38

25yo Irish guy- 5'10", 145lb, uncut paleskin, blonde with red p-hair safe & fun- wk.end only- 998-8087 E38

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Grant Dupont for the fabulous Lea. Pride Walk that raised $7000 and to Jerry Roberts for arranging the bare chest auction that raised almost $8000!!! Both on Sun, Sep 19 E38

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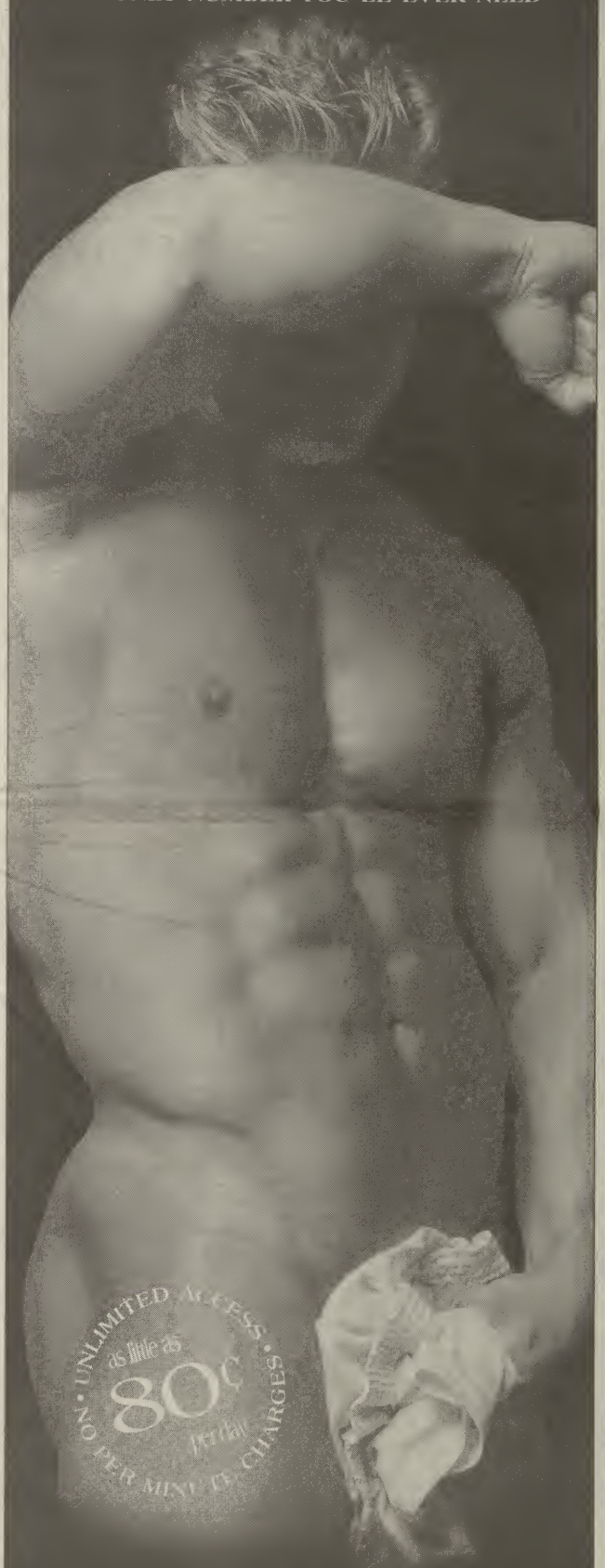
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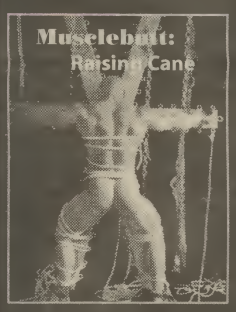
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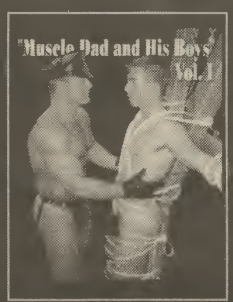
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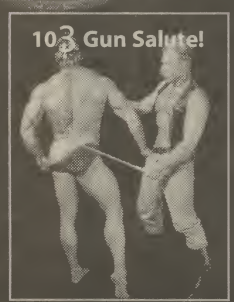
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